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One week after the Naharayim killings

News in Focus



Babes on the beach

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Weizman, US back PM's proposal

By BATSHEVA TSUR, HILLEL KUTLER, and news agencies

President Ezer Weizman yesterday came out in support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to accelerate final status talks with the Palestinians.

Peres says PM's move is doomed to fail, Page 2

Speaking on his return to Beit Hanassi from Hadassah University Hospital at Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, where he was treated for a fractured hip and arm, Weizman said: "I fully support going for a final agreement. I hope the Palestinians will understand that this is the best way ... With Egypt, with whom we had the worst wars and the biggest arguments, it took us 16 months until we reached a final agreement. There are too many problems with a phased agreement. With a final agreement, there is one huge headache and then you reach an agreement directly."

Weizman also said that a national unity government is "a good idea."

The president, who is using a cane to help him get around, will gradually be returning to his regular duties.

Continued on Page 14

US rabbi launches 'Shabbat across America'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - With a foot-tapping jingle, an unconventional Orthodox rabbi is launching a marketing blitz to get a half-million American Jews to celebrate Shabbat "yiddle by yiddle."

Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, director of the National Jewish Outreach Program, has signed up 460 (and counting) Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Orthodox synagogues to sponsor "Shabbat Across America."

Buchwald started a pull-'em-in Shabbat program in 1980 on New York's Upper West Side, at the Lincoln Square Synagogue, where Shlomo Riskin, now of Efrat, was the rabbi. It was called "Turn Friday Night into Shabbos."

"In those days, Shabbos was a nice nostalgic word, but there's no

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Did you remember?

Daylight saving time went into effect last night, and clocks were moved forward one hour.

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| Netanya | 6:30 p.m. | 7:28 p.m. |



An IDF soldier lobbs a tear gas grenade at stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators near Rachel's Tomb outside Bethlehem yesterday. (Brian Hentler)

Technion satellite set for summer

By DAVID RUDGE

The Technion's second attempt to launch its student-built satellite, TechSat 2, into space aboard a Russian rocket is set for this summer.

The first effort, in March 1995, ended in bitter disappointment when the fourth stage of the converted Russian SS-25 ballistic missile failed to ignite and the rocket crashed into the sea.

This time, however, experts are optimistic that the launch, aboard a Russian-built, three-stage space rocket known as the Zenith, will be successful.

More than three years of work, including the construction of an artificial laboratory model that recreates the atmosphere of space and the magnetic pull of Earth, went into the construction of the first satellite, at a cost of over \$3.5 million.

Since the loss of the TechSat 1, students, aided by experts from leading Israeli high-tech companies, have painstakingly reconstructed a new satellite.

The new model also is what is

Continued on Page 18

Capital braces for violence

By JON EBMANUEL, ELI WOLFGELERTER and news agencies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday he had been warned of plans for the Jerusalem violence today in the Jerusalem area, after several dozen Palestinian youths hurled rocks at soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb outside Bethlehem.

The army is to rely heavily on cooperation by the Palestinian Police to prevent potential rioters from clashing directly with soldiers today.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan has spoken of "separation zones" to avoid the confrontations of last September. But West Bank commander Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir said that "in most places cooperation [with the Palestinian Police] is at a lower level than formerly."

Soldiers and border policemen fired tear gas during some three hours of low-key rioting in Bethlehem yesterday. Palestinian policemen at first held back the protesters, but they still approached the barbed wire barricade near the tomb, breathing tear gas fumes which mixed with the black smoke of burning tires.

"We have information the Palestinians will try during or after prayers to encourage violence," Mordechai said to reporters during a tour of Har Homa. "And confrontations in Bethlehem do not help anyone," he added.

Earlier he had visited Rachel's Tomb and flown to Gaza to inspect Dahaniya Airport, which "will be ready tomorrow" to allow Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to fly to Pakistan on Sunday. Palestinians have said they do not consider personal gestures to Arafat as a reason to moderate their behavior.

The rioting started inside Bethlehem as youths stoned a tourist bus. The IDF closed the town to tourists and Israelis and evacuated Jewish worshippers from Rachel's Tomb as the youths approached the limit of area A.

Stonethrowing also spread to Beit Omar, south of Bethlehem. Dozens of youths threw stones at soldiers and placed rocks across the entrance to the village. One border policeman was hit by a stone, the IDF said.

In Bethlehem, trouble resumed after nightfall, as four firebombs lit up the new fortress style-wall protecting Rachel's Tomb, but caused no damage.

"We have done so much to

improve the life of Palestinians in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. You know we have the right to build on Har Homa. Violence is not going to help anybody," Mordechai said.

For the second Friday in a row, security will be beefed up today on the Temple Mount, as well as at Har Homa. Between 1,600 and 2,000 extra policemen and border policemen will be on duty, a police spokesman said.

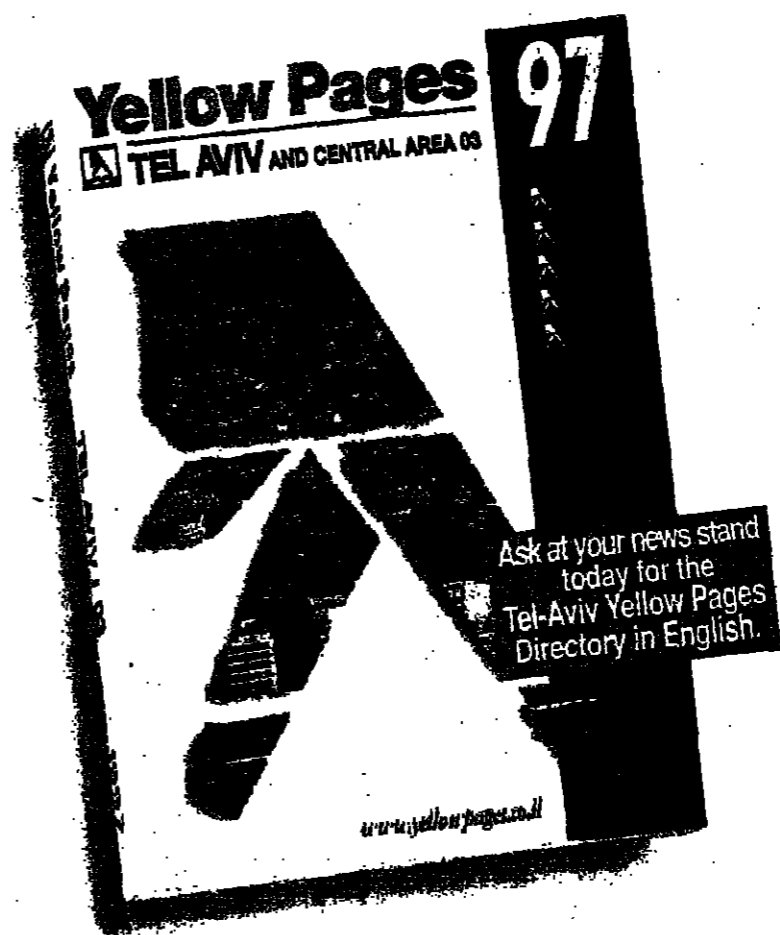
Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said that Israel predicting violence "is like someone who starts a fire and then cries 'fire, fire, fire.' This government is starting the fire, and then they are crying that there is a danger from this fire."

Husseini said he is afraid there could be violence today, because "this government, by not listening to their partners in the peace process, by dealing with negotiations by dictating and not negotiating, and by neglecting the reality that Jerusalem is part of the negotiations as part of Oslo, they are discrediting the Palestinian leadership, and in the end someone will come and push us aside and lead instead of us."

Arafat and Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold yesterday flew into the

Continued on Page 18

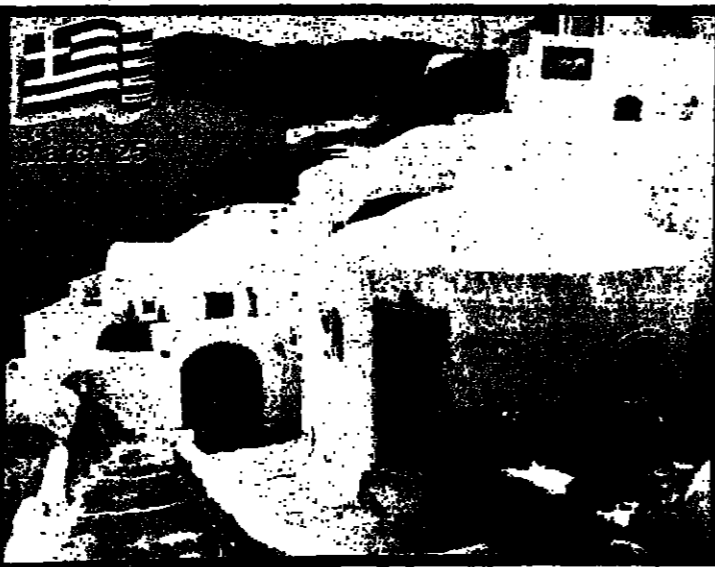
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Mordechai over Dahaniya

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai observes Gaza's Dahaniya Airport from the air yesterday.

(Defense Ministry)

Peres: Netanyahu proposal doomed

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's move to accelerate the peace process is doomed to failure.

Peres made the remark at a meeting of his party's central committee. It was clear from the discussions at the meeting that party leaders had been caught off guard by Netanyahu's initiative. They did not reject Netanyahu's suggestion, but did not endorse it either.

The subject was hurriedly placed at the top of the committee's agenda at the last minute, though the speakers spent most of their time addressing the possibility of a national unity government.

"Netanyahu's move is doomed to failure," Peres said. "Sadly, it stands no chance. I am not happy about this, because I am for bringing the government down, but not

for bringing the peace process down, and it would do us good to distinguish between the two."

On the issue of a national unity government, Peres fended off critics who charged he is pushing to join the government to cement his hold on the party leadership.

Peres said Netanyahu did not approach him with an offer to join his coalition, but in an apparent slip of the tongue, he let on that "such an invitation will only come after the Bar-On affair is over."

But leadership challenger MK Ehud Barak clearly did not like Peres's remarks. In his address, he asked, "Why is a national unity government necessary? To help Bibi? To save him? A government of this sort ought not be rescued but it must be brought down."

"There is no point of even considering national unity with Netanyahu - not at any point in time," Barak said.

Likud split on fast-track plan

By SARAH HONIG

Likud critics of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were split last night on his move to speed up the final-status talks, with MK Ze'ev Begin rejecting the initiative and Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau welcoming it as "an admission that the Oslo process is dead."

Both Begin and Landau spoke at a gathering of Likud members last night attended by former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and former defense minister Moshe Arens.

"What he is doing is replacing one dead-end route with another dead-end route," Begin asserted.

Landau, however, perceived an advantage in Netanyahu's proposal, "mostly because it spells the end of Oslo and admits that it is not a peace process and that we are not in the midst of a peace process, not of anything remotely resembling one."

"At most we are experiencing a mirage. So far Israel has gained nothing from the Oslo process but lost a lot. Perhaps we will do better with another approach, one which for the first time will force an Israeli government to think out what its goals are for the final settlement."

One of the Knesset's most hawkish newcomers, the Likud's MK Ze'ev Re'em, said "the new approach would perhaps stop the salami process of cutting slices off Israel without giving anything in return, until Israel is strategically weak. Then, when there is nothing more Israel can pay, it will be attacked and will be very vulnerable."

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon told Army Radio yesterday that "Israel must decide what areas are essential for its defense in the final-status framework and we must make our decisions clear to the US and to the Palestinians, to prevent illusory expectations and friction."

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said he has no doubt that "talking now about the whole solution is better. What's the point of us making concessions continuously if they will explode the whole process over Jerusalem and the return of the refugees?"

"It was incredibly stupid to have agreed to this in the first place. Nowhere in the world is there a process in which you gradually yield all your strategic advantage and arrive at the negotiating table with nothing."

Palestinians skeptical of Netanyahu's offer

By JON HIRSHMAN

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat may have rebuffed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal for a fast track to a final settlement, but other Palestinians said yesterday they believed the idea worth exploring.

Members of the legislative council suggested to Arafat advisers that the idea merits more than a public dismissal, and so the chairman's initial rejection of it is probably not the last word.

"We are not against accelerating the permanent status, but we must complete the interim agreement. If we can do both in six months that will be great," said Ahmed Qurie, the Palestinian Legislative Council speaker and chief Oslo negotiator.

But to cancel the interim agreement is not acceptable, he said. The talks would have to run parallel, "including the issues of full withdrawal, refugees, and future relations," he said.

But no leading Palestinians,

including Qurie, believe Netanyahu is serious, and until he proves otherwise they are assuming it is a trick.

"I don't think he is honest and I haven't yet seen a proposal," Qurie said.

There is no personal communication between Netanyahu and Arafat, as Arafat is refusing to meet unless the plan to build on Har Homa is cancelled.

Arafat is publicly treating the proposal with such disdain that apart from dismissing "novel statements" he did not refer to it during yesterday's session of the legislative council, which met in Gaza to reflect its principal officers.

Instead he lambasted Israeli construction on Har Homa and lashed out at Netanyahu as well.

"Does he take me for a fool, does he take us for drooling babes?" he exclaimed.

Council member Ziad Abu Amr, a political scientist, said that the general Palestinian impression is that Netanyahu has no real plan and is trying to patch up the dam-

age the recent decisions on Har Homa and redeployment have done to the peace process and Israel's image abroad.

"If there had been a good track record it may have been received in a different way. There is also a fear that if we lose the agreed-upon terms of reference we will have no terms for the peace process. Netanyahu would have to be very explicit about the contents of the plan and allow international guarantors," Abu Amr said.

Abu Amr did not seem to think Har Homa construction was a barrier to moving forward on the talks, saying, "Netanyahu would have to say that Abu Ghneim [Har Homa] is the last settlement activity until the end of permanent-status talks. If he declared a moratorium on any more settlement it might help."

Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh also did not reject the Netanyahu proposal out of hand, but set conditions Netanyahu is unlikely to accept, such as "postponement" of Har Homa.

Beilin, Eitan back accelerated talks

By SARAH HONIG

Likud MK Michael Eitan and Labor leadership hopeful Yossi Beilin both expressed support yesterday for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to accelerate the final-status talks, and suggested their recent jointly produced document be used as the government's guideline.

"Concentration on the final goals is the only sensible move for Israel, because it has nothing to gain from relinquishing all of its strategic assets in phased withdrawals, which themselves foment discord," Eitan said, at a joint press conference.

"The upshot is that we lose all our cards before the negotiations are over and we cannot successfully

negotiate without anything in our hands. The Arabs will have no incentive to reach agreement with us if we have nothing left to hand over."

Beilin said he "had recommended that the final status not be deferred but faced head-on now. I consider the phased withdrawals a mistaken approach because rather than build confidence, they erode it."

"Our paper specifies the parameters for Israel's negotiators. There would be a demilitarized Palestinian entity and an undivided Jerusalem, and most settlers would remain under Israeli rule."

Eitan asserted that Netanyahu "accepts chunks of our paper, though it has not received government approval. But it has considerable support inside the Likud and wide support in the nation."

Alpher raps PM's 'express lane'

By HERB KEINON

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's suggestion to speed up final-status talks with the Palestinians is impractical, considering the yawning gaps in the starting positions between the two sides, Middle East analyst Joseph Alpher said yesterday.

Alpher, director of the Israel-Middle East Office of the American Jewish Committee and former Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies director, is the author of the so-called Alpher map. This would have Israel annex 11 percent of the territories, in which 70 percent of the settlers live. He said pursuing a faster track now would make sense were gaps between the sides small.

In the present circumstance the gaps are very large," he said. "To my understanding the Israelis are offering a 50-50 deal on the West Bank, far less than what the Palestinians could accept."

Alpher said some on the Right welcomed Netanyahu's suggestion to speed up the talks, because they realize that, with the gaps so large, the talks would ultimately break down and the process collapse.

Alpher said the initiative may stem from a poor assessment of the gaps between the two sides.

"One of my fears is that the government does not have a realistic assessment of the differences, and that there is a certain naivete, a certain feeling that the Palestinians may make more concessions. But I

don't think this is based on a realistic assessment," he said.

Alpher said Netanyahu may feel that taking the "express lane" to a final disposition of the territories will solve two problems: the coalition difficulties sure to arise when he is called upon to make further pullbacks, and a crisis at every turn with the Palestinians.

His coalition problems would end, because he would likely bring Labor in to form a national unity government, and recurring crises with the Palestinians would end once the final status of the territories is agreed.

"Somehow he thinks he can avoid both crises," Alpher said, seeming skeptical that this can in fact be pulled off.

Winning cards and numbers, Page 18

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Psalms 28, 9

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Dr. Martha Kessler, Guest Scholar, The Brookings Institution, Washington

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Dr. Eyal Zisser, The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University

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Dr. Martin Kramer, The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University

The Seminar will meet on Tuesday, March 25 1997 in the Yona Ettinger Hall, Gilman Building, Ramat Aviv Campus. Seating is limited.

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Five Jewish families move to City of David

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Five Jewish families moved into the City of David area in Jerusalem's Arab neighborhood of Silwan late Wednesday night.

The families moved in between 11:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., accompanied by MK Hanan Port (NRP) and a contingent of 10 private guards. According to police, the move was legal and no action will be taken against the families.

The houses were purchased from a private owner six months ago by the Elad organization, said Yigal Canaan, a spokesman for the group. The families moved in this week, he said, because the previous tenants moved out only a week ago.

"There was nothing special about this move," Canaan said. "In the last year and a half we've moved into four new houses. The last move we did was three months ago, before that six months ago, and there was only a few lines in *Kol Ha'ir*. But now, because of the tension of Har

Homa, there was a lot of press." Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein called the move "another provocation, because we know that these homes were under the control of the Israelis long ago, and it seems to me they were trying before to avoid any kind of provocation, and it seems now that they have no interest in avoiding any provocation."

"I believe that there are some ministers, some people, inside the Israeli coalition or inside the Israeli community who are trying by all means to push the whole area to a real clash," Hussein said.

Canaan said the new tenants are only temporary and after repairs are done on the houses the permanent residents would move in.

"We couldn't wait," Canaan said, "it's too dangerous. Jibril Rajoub's men are working in all these areas, and the minute they see an empty house, they know what's going on. So we did minimum repairs in a couple days, just so there were better sanitary conditions, and we came in. We didn't

want to leave an empty house so that there would be demonstrations, and all kinds of problems."

There are about 30 families consisting of 70 people who live in the City of David, plus another 30 students who study there during the day at the Hazon Elbanan Yeshiva. Canaan said the move "wasn't something out of the blue, something dramatic, provocative," but rather part of the ongoing effort by Elad to settle the entire area where King David had once made his home at the time of the First Temple.

"In three to four months, we'll enter another house. I'm sure also then they will tell us, 'Oh, why are you doing it now, the timing is so bad, the problems with the Palestinians,' but we'll continue, because we want to settle the City of David, that's our main issue. Nothing else."

Canaan said he wasn't worried about Palestinian protests against the move, like that accompanying Har Homa construction this week.



The City of David's most recent arrivals check out their new home yesterday. (Bryan McBurney)

IAF warplanes blast Hizbullah targets

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

IAF warplanes struck deep in Lebanon yesterday, attacking Hizbullah targets north of the organization's stronghold in Ba'albek, less than 10 km. from the Syrian border.

Two IAF fighter planes fired two air-to-surface missiles on the village of Ashawaghir in the city of Hermel, 70 kilometers north of Ba'albek, according to Lebanese officials.

Reports from Lebanon said that a Hizbullah scout camp was hit in yesterday's air raid. Hizbullah issued a statement saying that the strike was a blatant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

The IDF Spokesman said that the pilots reported direct hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their

bases.

This was the first IAF raid on Hermel since 1982. The IAF raided Ba'albek last month, destroying the Voice of the Oppressed radio station run by Hizbullah.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the air raid, which was apparently in response to Hizbullah's attack on an IDF convoy in the Beaufort Castle region on Wednesday, in which a soldier was killed and three others wounded.

Sgt. Avner Kfir Hezi, 20, of Alon Moreh, was laid to rest at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem yesterday. Hezi, a medic, was killed when a Fagot anti-tank missile hit the command car in which he and four other soldiers were riding.

Three of the other soldiers were wound-

ed, one lightly and two seriously, and were evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai said the lightly wounded soldier was released yesterday after treatment for injuries to his hand.

He said the condition of the two other soldiers, both suffering from shrapnel injuries to their limbs, was stable after they had undergone surgery. One is in the hospital's intensive care unit and the other in the orthopedic ward.

Hundreds of people, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, attended Hezi's funeral. His brother, Avner Hezi, noted that he had been named after a relative who died in the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

At the funeral, Rabbi Menahem Felix said that Hezi was not just a soldier from the territories, but a soldier of Israel and

made a plea for national unity. "We can not let partitions divide us, we are one people, and we have one land and one enemy," he said.

The commander of the Galilee unit, under whom Hezi had served, said that he had volunteered to serve in Lebanon, but had not told his parents because he did not want to worry them.

"You helped soldiers in the battlefield and you assisted in saving their lives," the commander said. "And yesterday, when you were wounded in the field we immediately wanted to try to rescue you, like you had done many times [for others, and we weren't able]."

Hezi's death brought to six the number of IDF soldiers killed in south Lebanon this year. More than 20 have been wounded in various incidents in the region during the same period.

Hanegbi grilled again

By RAINE MARCUS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi is to be questioned yet again next week to complete the Bar-On-for-Hebron inquiry, police sources said yesterday. The minister was questioned under caution twice this week.

The police team, which for these past two months has probed the affair under the leadership of National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor and Dep. Cmdr. Ya'acov Grossman, met with State Attorney Edna Arbel, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and others yesterday to discuss evidence collected and to decide what further steps to take. Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz also participated.

Speaking at a conference of the National Crime Squad yesterday, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told senior investigators that, "We said we would not hinder you [in the probe], and indeed we did not interfere."

Regarding whether there will be indictments as a result of the investigation, Kahalani told the gathering, "Shame on you if [the police]

don't release the truth. Shame on you, who have toiled two months on this case, if it turns out that no criminal offenses have been committed, and you try and invent offenses. Release only the truth. Release the truth and we will stand by your side."

Figures in the public eye and political leaders should be prepared for exposure, added Kahalani, and they must show a personal example to the public. Regarding relations between the police and the press over the past two months, Kahalani said investigators are "in the middle, and should show restraint."

"This is a sensitive issue," he said. "If there are criminal aspects to the inquiry, then the public must know."

If not, said Kahalani, the question should be raised whether police should be responsible for a report explaining exactly what did happen in the affair. "The public may not need to know everything, since this could damage other people. But, in any case, a report should be issued, whatever happens, and the police should weigh procedures in the event that no criminal offenses have been committed."

Haifa councilor wants a kosher zoo

By DAVID RUDGE

The geese were all of a gaggle yesterday, along with staff at Haifa's popular Gan Ha'em Zoo, following a request by a religious councilman to remove wild boar from the site, because they allegedly offend Orthodox visitors.

In a letter to Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzra, councilman Ynon Z'ribi asked the council, which partly finances the central Carmel zoo, to remove the family of wild boar.

Z'ribi maintains that the presence of the wild boar, predecessors of the domesticated pig, is upsetting to Orthodox Jews.

Zoo manager Pinna Sivan said the request amazed and shocked her. She stressed that wild boar roam free in the woods and forests of Mt. Carmel and many other areas in the North.

Furthermore, she noted, there are dozens of other "non-kosher" animals in the zoo, such as snakes and jackals, which are all indigenous to the area.

Municipal spokeswoman Bracha Brill said Z'ribi's letter had not yet reached the mayor, but it is "highly unlikely" that any changes he requests would be made at the zoo.

She noted this is the first time since the zoo was established in the 1950s that anyone - even among the many Orthodox visitors - has complained about the presence of wild boar.

A city official, speculating the request was a Purim joke, suggested: "Maybe the male animals should also be separated from the female animals because of the possible offensiveness to the sensitivities of certain people."

Mazor: Bar-On investigators apolitical

Investigations chief slams press for leaks

By RAINE MARCUS

The police have proved they are capable of conducting a completely apolitical investigation, said National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor at the annual conference of the National Crimes Squad in Petah Tikva yesterday.

Mazor refused to go into possible recommendations to State Attorney Edna Arbel on indictments in the Bar-On Affair. Mazor addressed the elite squad, which investigates serious crimes and has probed sensitive political cases, including those involving Aryeh Deri, just as its chief Yoram Rudman is about to be replaced by Cmdr. Moshe Mizrahi. Rudman is due to be police representative in the Far East, based in Thailand. The

appointment is a new one in the region.

Mazor slammed the press for publishing leaks. "These leaks were tendentious and intended to disrupt the probe," said Mazor. "But for these past two months we have proved we are capable of conducting an inquiry free from political intervention on a controversial and ambivalent issue. The investigation has been conducted according to the law in spite of attempts by certain parties to cast doubts on the nature of the inquiry."

Mazor spoke mostly about the police's International Crime Division, which mainly concentrates on crimes concerning Eastern Europe and the CIS. Mazor predicted that new intelligence methods will be used by police and said he hopes that intelligence gathering would also increase in the spheres of

terrorism and public order.

While no one could state the number of alleged Russian mafia heads living here at least some of the time and who own businesses here, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said figures involved in organized crime are "under control" and have still not managed to infiltrate political circles.

Chief Supt. Ofer Gamliel disclosed that the squad recently opened criminal files against Israeli citizens who escaped from Iraq in the mid-80s but then went back via Turkey to try and bring their relatives to Israel or retrieve possessions still there. Around 15 such people have recently been investigated for entering a hostile country, he said, even though they went to Iraq and returned more than 10 years ago. The investigation was postponed for years for security reasons.

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Final status now

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's sensible proposal to accelerate the final status talks contains a no-risk guarantee for the Palestinians: Either the parties reach agreement in six to nine months, or Israel will return to Oslo's original schedule of withdrawals. If Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat rejects Netanyahu's proposal, he will be betting that the current pattern of lurching from crisis to crisis is in his interest. He may be right, but more likely, it would be another example of the Palestinian tendency to, as Abba Eban once said, "never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

Underlying Oslo was a conviction that neither side was ready to sit down and resolve the toughest knots in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. If these quandaries could not be resolved immediately, Oslo was the fallback: a staged process to lead the parties inexorably to the doorstep of final status talks, and along the way build confidence that would ease the resolution of the toughest issues.

As a conduit to final status talks, Oslo has demonstrated amazing resilience to events that many predicted would have spelled its demise. The Oslo process survived the terrible terrorist attacks before the last election and violent clashes between Palestinian and Israeli forces in September. The current Likud government, far from destroying Oslo, has built the largest parliamentary safety net the process has ever known.

Netanyahu's proposal to jump straight into final status talks marks the achievement of the first of Oslo's cardinal goals: the creation of a momentum pushing both parties toward an ultimate resolution to the conflict.

Oslo has been much less successful in achieving its second goal, that of building trust and confidence on the way to final status. It may seem that the deteriorating trust between the sides began with the election of the Netanyahu government, but this is not fully the case. The Palestinians did not have much more trust in prime ministers Rabin and Peres; and the Palestinians certainly have been doing the minimum—or less—needed to win the confidence of the Israeli public. Both sides have found that internal political pressures and the need to preserve cards for final status talks have mitigated against expansive gestures toward the other side.

At this rate, another year of "confidence-building" could torpedo the whole process. Oslo's two primary goals are now working at cross purposes—both sides are as ready as they ever will be to negotiate a final-status agreement, but the incidental battles of the interim phase risk blowing up the process before the parties get to the real issues.

The culmination of this contradiction within Oslo will be the third and last withdrawal

required in the interim phase. In this redeployment, Israel will have to withdraw from all but Israeli settlements and "specified military locations" (a phrase borrowed from the Camp David treaty with Egypt) in Judea and Samaria. The Palestinians interpret this to mean at least 90 percent of the territory; Israel is likely to interpret it as about 50 percent.

This large gap in the stances of the parties going into the third withdrawal is a recipe for significant, possibly devastating, conflict—without the advantage of having solved a single final status issue. On the one hand, the language of Oslo leans toward the narrow Palestinian interpretation of what Israel may keep; but Israel cannot afford to give away too many of its territorial cards before the final status issues have even been addressed.

A narrow view of the Palestinian interests might be to try and pocket as much territory as possible before final status talks begin in earnest, so as to move the base line for negotiations in their favor. The danger is that each withdrawal, whether unilaterally determined by Israel or negotiated out, will turn into a bitter battle of wills that further saps the Israeli public of the trust and goodwill the Palestinians will need in the final status talks.

Arafat, judging from his first speech upon taking over most of Hebron, realizes how significant it is that now "the other half" of Israel is supporting the peace process. What he may not realize is that the support of the Israeli majority for the process is still conditional; the vast majority of Israelis need concrete reassurance that the future Palestinian entity will not be a springboard for continuing the conflict with Israel.

When it comes to final status talks, the deciding factor will not be international pressure or Palestinian threats of violence—it will be whether the Israeli public is convinced that the Palestinians really want to live in peace with Israel. The pressure tactics that worked for Arafat in the interim phase, will work against him in final status. The crisis of trust may be on the Palestinian side now, but it is the Israeli side whose trust must ultimately be earned, since it will be Israel that is giving up territory in exchange for Palestinian commitments.

Netanyahu's proposal is a possible way to save Oslo from destroying itself. From a Palestinian perspective it should be attractive. It increases the likelihood that the support of the Israeli public can be built up during final status talks, rather than frittered away on interim matters—without giving up the leverage of the interim withdrawals if negotiations falter. The Palestinians should consider the possibility that the peace process is not always a zero-sum game. Even an Israeli proposal can be in both parties' mutual interest.



Shiny, yes – but a bad penny

A national unity government, one of the most persistent themes in Israeli politics, resurfaces every time the government runs into some difficulty—which is to say, on a fairly regular basis.

And like a bad penny, it can look so shiny and attractive that only its detractors are required to explain themselves.

But like with a bad penny, the shine is deceiving. A national unity government is, in fact, so contrary to the basic principles of democracy that it should be reserved, as it has been in most Western countries, for the most extreme national emergencies.

Given the intensity and passions of political differences in Israel, the yearning for national unity might seem rather strange, since real divisions cannot be overcome by an arbitrary decision to unite. But it is precisely the discomfort with those divisions that explains the desire to reconcile them and make them go away.

Besides, the notion exists that a government with a large Knesset majority would somehow be able to function more efficiently, or at least to pursue its objectives more effectively in the face of Arab and international pressure.

Unfortunately, actual experience has been far less encouraging. Israel has had two national unity governments. They functioned reasonably well when they focused on immediate, near-term problems (facing the Egyptian threat in 1967, extricating the IDF from most of Lebanon, and taming hyperinflation in 1984-5), but

once these discrete problems were dealt with, the grand coalitions quickly outlived their usefulness. When different, more diffuse challenges emerged, the programmatic differences between the main parties led either to one's leaving the government (in 1969) or to mutual neutralization, and a government of national paralysis (1986-90).

In both cases, the price of

as an objective need and a public sentiment. That was the situation in Britain during World War II, and it lasted until the day Germany surrendered, when the government was promptly dissolved and the voters threw Winston Churchill out of office.

But it is not the situation facing Israel today. The choices Israel must make with respect to its relations with the Arab world, and

National unity is a seductive notion, but the reality would be an emasculated opposition and a dent in our democracy

national unity was a much-weakened opposition which could neither challenge the government, nor stimulate the public debate. In the latter case, this was accompanied by conceptual stagnation, resulting in the failure to either anticipate the intifada, or react properly to it.

ONE of the requirements of a functioning democracy is a vigorous parliamentary opposition—lost when a national unity government is established. The sacrifice may be justified, for a short while, when a society is confronted with a challenge so immense, immediate, and clear-cut that it overwhelms established political differences.

Thus, national unity will naturally assert itself in wartime, both particularly with the Palestinians, are immense, and there are not immediate, and there are certainly not clear-cut.

Quite the opposite. They are full of uncertainties and ambiguities, and therefore highly contentious; and it is precisely the differing views about what to do that have most divided the major parties during the past three decades, up to and beyond the last election.

Unless all these controversies were for nothing, there is no basis for a bipartisan peace policy. No act of will can make politics stop "at the water's edge."

It is not inconceivable that the major parties can find some common ground; the so-called Beilin-Eitan guidelines revealed a degree of overlap. But differing interpretations of

what was agreed and subsequent clarifications to the effect that neither interlocutor committed his own party suggest that the overlap is not robust enough to sustain the challenges of governance during permanent status negotiations.

There is no harm in pursuing this further, especially since Prime Minister Netanyahu has now proposed moving immediately to permanent status negotiations. But the likelihood that more talks will produce a workable action plan is low.

For one thing, neither Netanyahu nor the Labor Party have announced their own basic position, much less determined what they share in common. In principle, the task of the opposition in a democracy is not to save the government, but to provide a viable alternative. Deviating from this principle might be justified if the Palestinians respond positively to Netanyahu's proposal and if Likud and Labor, the experience of three decades notwithstanding, can agree on what Israel's peace policy should be.

But unless the unexpected happens very quickly, it is much more logical, and far healthier for our democracy, if both Netanyahu and Labor fulfill the missions assigned them by the voters in the last election.

If they do not, they will deprive voters of their right to make a real choice next time around.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ABUSE OF THE CROSS

Sir, — As Christians, we are frankly sickened by the continued and blasphemous abuse of the symbols of our faith by the followers of another.

It has been bad enough having to stomach the revisionism practiced by PLO representatives during Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, as they welcome visitors to the birthplace of Jesus, the first Palestinian revolutionary. But by erecting three crosses near Har Homa representing "the crucifixion of the peace process, of Jerusalem, and of Bethlehem," Arabs protesting the project have stooped to new depths of bad taste.

Not only did it denigrate our Lord, it was also an unsuitable

COLLAPSE OF OSLO

Sir, — In his article "The trouble is the nature of Oslo" (March 14) Gerald M. Steinberg proves very convincingly that the key issues between Israel and the Palestinians, namely Jerusalem, the Palestinian state and settlements, are unbridgeable. Then he asks the question "where does it leave us?" He does not give a clear answer, just saying "there is little choice but to ride out the storm."

This, of course, is just evading the inevitable, namely the collapse of Oslo. Once this prognosis becomes evident, it is clear that it is in Israel's interest to have this collapse as early as possible before too many concessions to the Palestinians have taken place.

The method to achieve this collapse is simple: All we have to do is insist that the Palestinians should fulfill all their obligations under the Oslo agreement (abolition of the PLO covenant, surrender of terrorists to Israel, reducing the number of their "police" etc., etc.) before we proceed any further. Since Arafat will not comply, the blame for the collapse of Oslo will be his.

DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

VETERAN SUBSCRIBERS

Sir, — In your March 14 edition, the Grapevine column included an item about veteran subscribers to The Jerusalem Post. Mr. and Mrs. Siedner. I knew them very well as we were neighbors in the "new Armenian building" on what was then called Princess Mary Street (now Shalomzion Hamalka Street). But just for your information and for fun I would like to point out that I can beat them by two years.

My late father Mr. Ludwig Mayer and later, I, were subscribers to the Post from the time of our arrival in Jerusalem in August 1933, and have been with your paper through good and bad times.

I am 82 years old and hope that I will enjoy many more years with The Jerusalem Post.

HERMANN JOSEPH MAYER
Jerusalem.

FOOLING ALL THE PEOPLE

Sir, — Apparently Lincoln was wrong. It seems you can indeed fool all of the people all of the time. At least the Jewish people. Here is King Hussein, a man who just sent a vile letter in which he insulted personally the elected head of the government of Israel because of Israel's decision to build the Har Homa neighborhood in Jerusalem. Within days of this public affront by Hussein to Prime Minister Netanyahu, and possibly inspired by it, a Jordanian soldier murders seven eighth-grade Israeli girls.

Whereupon Hussein pays condolence calls in Israel, and the

lating politician, knows that it is in his interest to stay on the good side of Yasser Arafat by slapping Israel around from time to time. And he is keenly aware that he can benefit by good relations with us, and our naive and our desire to curry favor is such that we'll lick his hand at the slightest sop he throws us, so that no matter what he does to us we'll love him.

Never in human history has there been a politician as canny as Hussein. And never in human history has there been a people as stupid as we.

MICHAEL KAUFMAN
Jerusalem.

THE 'RECIDIVIST RUFFIAN' WAS ROUNDLY ASSAILED, WHEN ALL HE DID WAS RESTORE PERSPECTIVE AND STIFFEN SOME BACKBONES

gated when it implored Israeli governments to negotiate with the Palestinians. If the Palestinians had something to lose, argued the Left, they could be expected to act responsibly.

This proposition was now to be tested; but the Left now declared that there could be but one eventual loser—Israel.

AFTER weeks of incessant threats from the Arabs, amplified by the Left, it was Hanegbi the "recidivist ruffian" who was condemned for inflaming the atmosphere. Yet all Hanegbi did was restore perspective and stiffen some backbones.

The furor over Hanegbi's remarks recalls the artificial Syrian war scare of a few months back. Then a well-orchestrated media campaign warned of imminent hostilities with Syria. These warnings were accompanied by an inventory of the missiles and nerve gases in the Syrian arsenal.

As Natan Sharansky put it, if we are not ready to fight for Jerusalem, we are not worthy of having a country of our own. The minister was obviously referring to the moral aspect, but his statement makes perfect sense in practical terms as well.

The lesson our adversaries have drawn, from the Gulf war to the tunnel violence, is that Israel can be deterred and traumatized by the prospect of casualties.

In last Monday's Popolitika talk show, they received confirmation of their assessment. Tommy Lapid, the resident Delphic oracle of Israeli journalism, took two deputy prime ministers, Zevulun Hammer and Moshe Katsav, to task.

True the Arabs have no case over Har Homa, said Lapid, but what would Katsav and Hammer have to say if the government's policy resulted in 50 fatalities? Hammer and Katsav correctly responded by asking Lapid to ponder the ultimate implications of his argument.

Yesterday marked the 77th anniversary of Joseph Trumpeldor's death in defense of the isolated outpost of Tel-Hai. Trumpeldor's famous last words reportedly were, "It is good to die for our country."

All of us would undoubtedly prefer to live for our country, rather than die for it. However, Israel's enemies must be convinced that, under appropriate circumstances, we too would be prepared to fight and die for our country.

If they are not, our life expectancy in this region will be all too brief.

The writer teaches political science at Bar-Ilan University's extension in Ariel.

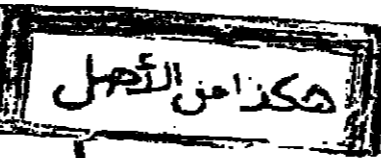
POSTSCRIPTS

- THIS IS a clip-and-save for schnorrers—the top 10 philanthropists in the US as ranked by Fortune magazine according to 1996 donations:
 1. George Soros, president of Soros Fund Management, \$350 million.
 2. L.S. Skaggs, retired chairman of American Stores, \$155 m.
 3. Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, \$135 m.
 4. Walter Annenberg, former chairman of Triangle Publications, \$128 m.
 5. William Hewlett, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard, \$100 m.
 6. Leslie Gonda, chairman of International Lease Finance Corp., \$73 m.
 7. Jay and Robert Pritzker, Hyatt Corp., Marmon Group, \$70 m.
 8. Ted Arison, retired founder of Carnival Cruise Lines, \$60 m.
 9. Robert Galvin, retired chairman of Motorola, \$60 m.
 10. William Davidson, chairman of Guardian Industries, \$35 m.

A BLIND MOUNTAIN climber has scaled El Capitan, a 975-meter granite monolith towering above Yosemite Valley in California that has challenged generations of adventurers.

Erik Weihenmayer, a Phoenix teacher, reached the top to cheers from about 20 people, including three sighted climbers who reached the top ahead of him. Weihenmayer, 28, said he made the four-day climb "to show potential rather than limitations. If you could climb El Capitan, you can do anything."

"I was amazed at the stuff he could do and how fast he could do it," said Hans Florine, who accompanied Weihenmayer on the climb. "Every challenge I put in front of him, he would rise to the occasion."



Like a viceroy

YISRAEL HAREL

Prior to 1948, Palestine was administered by Britain as a temporary mandate received from the League of Nations, precursor of the UN.

But for all intents and purposes, Eretz Yisrael was a British colony. As in any other Crown colony, all matters of policy, economics, law or justice touching on sovereignty were in the purview of the British Mandatory government, represented by His Majesty's high commissioner of Palestine.

MK Uzi Landau, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, is one of the most respected people in the Knesset. Even political opponents admire him for his courage and integrity.

It thus came as no surprise that Landau didn't mince his words in Tel Aviv last Friday, when he spoke to leaders of industry.

It should be made clear to the American ambassador, Landau said, "that he isn't the British high commissioner, and that he doesn't rule the country."

Indyk's interference in the peace process, Landau went on to say, was "improper." To push his point home, he drew a comparison between the ambassador, who is Jewish, and the first British high commissioner to Palestine, Herbert Samuel, also a Jew.

But were Landau to think a little deeper, he might realize that it wasn't Indyk, hyperactive though he is, who created the psychological atmosphere that enables him to behave like a viceroy.

All the rights of this absurd situation are reserved - and Landau ought to realize it - for the prime minister and some of his fellow cabinet members.

Though they belong to a party descended from the noble Jabotinsky tradition, there hasn't been one Israeli government, as former premier Yitzhak Shamir noted this week, that has put up with such brutal interference in its affairs as Netanyahu's.

Shamir and Landau were, of course, referring to the crucial government session two weeks ago that decided on the depth of the first withdrawal.

At that session, the premier

showed his true independence: He didn't dare take one decision on his own based on his platform; three times he halted the proceedings and went outside to call the US ambassador and get his okay. Other cabinet ministers did the same.

Shamir and Landau are wrong, therefore, in making the ambassador the focus of their complaint.

If foreigners meddle with impunity in our affairs, it's because we let them

All Indyk does is read (correctly) the personalities of those he is dealing with, and exploit it in his country's interest. Landau should be addressing the leader of his own party, whose weakness invites pressure and the dictates of outsiders.

In the days of his premiership, Shamir noted, no Israeli minister ever sought a US ambassador's approval for any policy. The Americans did try to intervene here and there, but when they saw that the government stood firm and stayed independent, they held off.

Only half a year ago, the PLO chairman stood at Netanyahu's door, cap in hand. But after the Palestinians attacked IDF soldiers last September, killing 16 of them, Netanyahu reacted like that lily-livered Roman emperor who ran to Canossa. He ran to Washington, where President Clinton was waiting, and there embraced Arafat, giving him the psychological advantage.

Now, when Netanyahu calls Arafat, the PLO leader hangs up and refuses any contact.

IF Israel's public, and its government, had any self-respect, foreigners wouldn't dare meddle so in our concerns. The State Department spokesman wouldn't

almost daily, attack our government as if we were a Fifities banana republic.

Jordan's prime minister wouldn't dare accuse our prime minister of "acting against peace... against international law"; and its monarch wouldn't dare send a contemptuous letter to the leader of the country that has safeguarded his crown for over three decades.

Hussein couldn't know that the outcome of that letter would be the murder of seven Israeli schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier, but he was certain Israel wouldn't put him in his place. Because this isn't the first time the king has shown such hutzpa, or worse.

In the days preceding the Six Day War, he signed an order that all Israeli villages in the Latrun area were to be razed to the ground. After the liberation, the tombstones from the Mount of Olives cemetery were found to have been used as paving stones for toilets in the Jordanian army barracks. And during the Gulf war, the king collaborated with Saddam Hussein, whose Scuds were falling on Tel Aviv and Haifa.

But instead of treating Hussein with the suspicion he deserves, instead of maintaining our national dignity and self-respect, our VIPs and the media fought each other to see who could fawn more on the murderer's king, who could wipe him cleaner of any guilt.

And Hussein, shrewd politician that he is, used this atmosphere to reap political gains in his subsequent meeting with Netanyahu.

If a government and a people show a total lack of respect for their national goals, they should not be surprised when others do the same, laying down, for example, what we can and cannot do in our own capital.

We should be engaging in self-examination. But all we do is apologize.

The writer is former chairman of the Council of Jewish Residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza and president of the board of Nekuda.



Dying gasp of Fortress Israel?

SUSAN BELLOS

I was always mystified by that fascinating piece of Newspeak "United Jerusalem," or, even more strangely, "liberated" Jerusalem. As far as I know, only people can be united, as some degree of mutual consent is needed.

Stones, walls, and apartment blocks, on the other hand, which can hardly take part in a conversation, tend to get annexed. In Berlin, for example, after the Wall was torn down, though hardly liberated, the people from the two sides were actually united, essentially because they were the same people, and often the same kin.

Unlike some people declaring their eternal loyalty to undivided Jerusalem these days, I was actually there when walls were knocked down and two very distinct peoples were brought face to face with one another. I also lived for some years in divided Jerusalem, and though I may have mixed in the wrong circles, I never heard anyone declaring that his right hand might be torn asunder, or that he couldn't live without East Jerusalem.

Jerusalem in my heady youth of 1963 was fun. In spite of snide remarks from Tel Avivians comparing Jerusalem's night life to that of an old age home, there was a vivid student life centered around the immortal, and quite disreputable, Bacchus Club off Zion Square.

There was also a vigorous intellectual life at the then handsome Hebrew University campus at Givat Ram and the challenge of the spanking new Hadassah Hospital in Ein Karem.

There was no kulturkampf between secular and religious Jews, who got on relatively harmoniously, each minding their own business. You didn't have to endure videos of your host's trip to the Far East or Alaska either, and red wine and olive oil were dead cheap.

I don't mean to blather on in some middle-aged way about Paradise Lost. Pre-1967 Jerusalem also meant living with rampant prejudice against non-Ashkenazi Jews, and a totally party-politi-

cized press that had no interest whatsoever in issues like police brutality, since it didn't actually involve their friends and relations. Women teachers were routinely addressed as "girls" by their male superiors, the food was generally ghastly, and *The Jerusalem Post* was as stodgy as last week's suet pud.

However, people seemed perfectly comfortable with the idea

fell out with Samira because she attempted to present me with a puppy when my children were aged two and three.

As the years went by, I continued and continue to enjoy East Jerusalem, even though I miss Samira and Marwan.

Whenever I hunger for top-quality Armenian ceramics or Significant Other has an urgent need for the freshest fassoulia, we

do so. However, the fact that some Israeli land developers bought up some land in Har Homa does not give anybody an excuse to wreck the peace process.

The simple truth is that if most ordinary Israelis and Palestinians neither know nor care about the legal niceties of the Oslo agreement, they understand its spirit very well. Israelis like me want to get on a bus without being afraid of being blown to bits, and Palestinians like Samira understand peace to mean no more settlement, or what they see as land-grabbing, under their noses.

Har Homa is hopefully the dying shudder of an antiquated and discredited fortress mentality. Modern warfare, which can involve mass murder of civilians thousands of miles away, is so dangerous that no building can ever justify it.

That brings me back to disunited Jerusalem. We remain two very separate peoples who are not very keen about mingling. The only thing that unites most Jerusalemites - Jewish, Moslem and Christian - is a common desire for peace and quiet.

There is no excuse for Israel to continue lording it over East Jerusalem if there is the slightest chance that our withdrawal will lead to the rolling up of the map of war in Gaza, Cairo, Damascus, or Amman.

Of course the Western Wall, and access to it, is deeply precious to the Jewish people. However, as any Orthodox Jew will tell you, the preservation of human life is the greatest *mitzva* of them all.

The writer is a Jerusalem journalist.

The right to revenge

YOSEF GOELL

VENGEANCE? It's a dirty word among liberals. That is what *Popolitnik*, host Dan Margalit implied when he sought to wind up this Monday's raucous debate on the parole of Rami Dotan.

He asked the guests on his panel to "put your hands on your hearts and swear that you aren't opposing parole because you are really seeking revenge."

Dotan, a former air force brigadier-general and IDF chief procurement officer, was sentenced in 1991 to 13 years in jail. He was demoted to private in a plea bargain, after pleading guilty to taking \$12 million in bribes involving military contracts.

A military parole board has now voted to release Dotan next month, with only half his sentence served, owing to chronic ill health.

Our supposedly-civilized modern world sees revenge as a reversal to barbarism. The rule of law is supposed to have replaced a family's or tribe's seeking blood vengeance for a deadly wrong done to one of its members.

More recently, however, we are beginning to recognize that when the chasm between the rule of law and popular concepts of justice becomes too wide, public opinion sanctions actions like a battered woman's killing her husband.

Dotan didn't just embezzle the \$12 million he admitted taking in bribes from General Electric, a supplier of engines for Israel's fighter planes. In perpetrating the worst crime of this sort ever unearthed in our armed forces, he did something much more damaging: He undermined the atmosphere of trust that is so crucial to the functioning of the air force, literally the country's first line of defense.

Already one betrayed family of a fighter pilot who was killed when his plane crashed owing to engine failure has accused Dotan of responsibility.

It has not been proven that Dotan bought defective engines, but through his misdeeds he sowed an atmosphere of deadly distrust.

And for this, the public whose security he endangered and the air force colleagues he so shamelessly betrayed are fully justified in seeking to maximize the vengeance they would wreak against him.

Public vengeance isn't only not a dirty concept, it actually seems mandated in Dotan's case - as it

White-collar crime is a dirty business, justifying the stiffest penalty

was in the analogous cases of convicted spies Marcus Klingsberg and Mordechai Vanunu, whose supporters have been pleading for release on similar claims of poor health.

In Dotan's case, the majority on the parole board accepted the argument that the prisoner's extremely high blood pressure justified parole after serving only half his term.

Commenting on which one might opt for the slangy Hebrew retort of "We've seen this movie before."

IN the late 1970s, a naive prime minister Menachem Begin, who was temporarily acting justice minister, wangled a pardon for jailed bank embezzler Yehoshua Bension, whose lawyers had similarly pleaded that their client lay at death's door. Bension was, conveniently, also a big contributor to Begin's Likud.

He was pardoned, ostensibly to enable him to die peacefully at home.

Twenty years later, Bension is still with us, presumably in good health and, as the saying goes, "laughing all the way to the bank."

Much more recently the party and rabbinical colleagues of jailed embezzler and Shas MK Yair Levy also pleaded for Levy's early parole on the basis of chronic ill

health. The authorities, prodded by enraged public opinion, didn't buy that line, and Levy is apparently none the worse for wear from serving his sentence in full.

Would Dotan's high blood pressure be any lower were he outside jail? He would merely be in closer proximity to the additional millions he has stashed away.

There was no shortage of people with itchy fingers and larcenous hearts in Israel's early years. But the fact that the country was dirt poor meant there was little worth stealing. That's why so many of us could live with no locks on our doors - if we had doors, that is.

Observes the Talmud laconically, "It isn't so much the mouse that is the thief as the mousehole."

The fantastically richer Israel of the past two decades is full of such mouseholes, and of a large number of naive Israelis whose tender hearts beat in empathy with the criminals among us, rather than with their victims.

So-called white-collar crimes have increased so sharply in recent decades - in number, in the amounts embezzled, and in the sheer hutzpa of the perpetrators - as to justify using the term "plague." And plagues need to be treated with extreme severity.

Fear of severe punishment may not deter habitual murderers; but it does dissuade the coldly calculating white-collar criminal.

But the overriding condition is that such a criminal knows the odds of being caught, and of society's insisting on meting out a punishment that is justly stiff.

The writer comments on public affairs.

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Friday, March 21, 1997

NEWS in FOCUS

The view from the East Bank

Abraham Rabinovich assesses the mood in Amman following King Hussein's condolence visit to Beit Shemesh

It was close to 1 a.m. but customers were still trickling into Yacoub's all-night pharmacy in Amman. Whenever one did, Yacoub broke his discourse in mid-sentence and walked out to the shop floor from the backroom where he was drinking coffee. When he started back, he would resume talking from the shop even before I could see him, picking up the dangling phrase precisely where he had left it.

"If they had been ordinary tourists who were killed, it wouldn't have been such a trauma and I don't think His Majesty would have gone to Israel. Such attacks happen, after all. But girls... In our society, they are untouchables. Why do you think Beduin girls can wander around the desert freely? If a Beduin man is killed, his tribe will find the killer and has the right to kill him or to demand compensation. If a girl is attacked, her family has the right to demand the lives of four men."

Yacoub had said that I had the good fortune to be getting the opinions of two men when I talked to him, a Jordanian and a Palestinian. In his case, the two agreed with each other in praise of the king's condolence visit to Israel and the peace process - an attitude, I would discover, not universally shared in Jordan where some 60 percent of the population is of Palestinian extraction.

"Some people didn't think the king should have gone, that his visit wasn't kingly," said Yacoub. "But His Majesty is more human than any protocol can imagine. I've lived through the era of Nasser and Arab nationalism. I've lived through the post-Nasser period filled with the PLO. We are now in the peace era, whether we like it or not."

Yacoub's views set an initially upbeat tone for a visitor trying to assess the mood in Jordan following King Hussein's visit to Beit Shemesh, perhaps the most ethereal moment in the peace process, and Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu's decision to plant his flag on Har Homa, come what may. But the first shopkeeper encountered the following morning in Amman's bustling downtown area made it clear that not all Jordanians were willing to clamber up with Yacoub and the king onto the high road of peace.

It was a small textile shop and the bespectacled owner declined at first to give his name. "It was bad for the king to go there to see the Israeli families," he said. "When Jews kill Palestinian children, do their leaders do this? Are our children worth less than

theirs? I felt ashamed for the king when I saw it on television. I am against the peace treaty. That country is not Israel, it is Palestine. I was born here but I am from Jaffa. For peace, you must give me back my roots, my house. If we can do this without war, that is best, but I don't think that will happen. I tell this to my children every day, never to forget they are Palestinian. We wait for a good time to take it back.

"Now Israel is strong. The next time we will be stronger. Most Palestinians here feel like me. Those Jews who were here before 1948 and their descendants can stay. The rest must go back. My father worked with Jews and got along well. But I hate the new Israelis who have taken my home."

I had introduced myself as an Israeli journalist but I was not certain now that he had understood me. "I just want to be sure," I said, "that you understand that I am from Israel."

"Yes," he said, turning to his young assistant and asking him to give me coffee. Turning back, he said, "I understood." Behind his glasses, his pale shopkeeper's face had suddenly taken on depth. There were layers of feelings there but hate was not among them. He introduced himself as Marwan Abed Liswi.

"We are not criminals, as the Israelis say. We need our roots, not more."

MARWAN'S WORDS had the ring of hard truth about them, an innermost truth after the proprieties had been stripped away. Had I departed Amman after our talk, this view of a decent man dreaming of annihilating Israel might have been the dominant one I took with me. Instead of heading for the airport, however, I went to the University of Jordan. It would not be the professors I met who provided the balance to Marwan but the taxi driver who took me there.

His name was Ghazi Daoud and his father was from Jaffa too. Unlike Marwan, who had never been to Jaffa - "I don't want to see Israelis living in my house," he said - Ghazi had.

"I went there three years ago with my parents and grandparents. The people living in our family's house received us more than generously. They invited us in and offered us fruits and drink and said they were sorry our family had to leave in the war. My grandfather said the house was almost unchanged. We have no thoughts of moving back there. If we could get compensation that would be enough. We can't get anything more than that."

He had been surprised at the



Jordanian anti-riot police mount a roadblock Monday at Muzzeireeb, west of Amman, to prevent sympathizers of the soldier who gunned down the seven schoolgirls from paying respects to his family. (Reuters)

modernity and vitality of Israel. "Israel built itself from nothing," he observed. He and his family had lived a comfortable life in Kuwait until the Gulf war, he said, but economic conditions since their return to Jordan were difficult. Could he live with a peace that confirms the loss of Palestinian

be taken literally. "He was staking out an opening negotiating position."

On the attractive university campus, a group of male students was dancing a *dehka* on a walkway and singing a catchy refrain. "They're celebrating the election results for the student council," someone

ate. Politically, it was probably counter-productive. The peace process at the moment is not very encouraging but if you ask me whether there will be peace in the long run I would say yes. It's simply in the interest of both parties. The human element, like the king's visit, doesn't play a role. What mat-

The previous night, Yacoub the pharmacist had spoken of a great difference between the character of West Bank Palestinians and trans-Jordanian Palestinians. "The Palestinians on the West Bank have changed totally because of their contact over the years with the Israelis. Before 1967, they were dull and lazy. They have turned into hard-working, ambitious, efficient people. Perhaps it is because of the competition with Israel. Now it is we who are dull and lazy compared to them even though Palestinians in Jordan work much harder than the native Jordanians."

The professor, and perhaps even Marwan, appeared one remove from the realities of life their brethren knew across the river.

For Yacoub, who had been to the West Bank three times in the past few years and follows Israeli politics closely - "I know what Dan Meridor has to say about this and that and about Olmert and Kahalani" - Israel's strength is the central reality. "You are so advanced in so many fields, not just agriculture as you keep saying, but

also in atomic bombs and in science and the arts. When I visited cancer institutes in the states, all the researchers' names seemed to end with 'berg' or 'stein' or 'man.'"

"You have made tremendous achievements over the past 50 years while the Arab world has been listening to rhetoric and staging coups d'etat. When I went to university we had a professor who said 'If you go on with your mad dreams of driving the Jews into the sea you're going to end up in the desert.' He said once the Arabs give the Israelis peace they will have no more reason to be militant."

"Just after the signing of the peace treaty, a reporter from Kol Yisrael came into the store to buy something and we began talking. My young son was here. I could see that he was, how shall I say, restless."

"All his life he had heard about 'the Jews' and here was one. I said 'Son, shake hands with our neighbor. He comes from Jerusalem. He is a Jew.' This is the era of peace and anyone who is sensible must accept it."

"Most Jordanians felt that the king's visit was unnecessary. At the human level it was appropriate; politically, it was probably counter-productive."

lands to Israel, I asked, a peace that severs finally his ties to Jaffa? "I can live with it. There are others who can't but they are a minority. We both have extremists. We need to forget the past and make a new life."

(When I described my conversation with Marwan later to Amman journalist Rami Khoury, he said that the shopkeeper's demand for the elimination of Israel was an example of Arabic rhetoric not to

explained. Most of the girls wore white headscarves, some were bareheaded and wore jeans, one wore a veil. A youngish, Hollywood-handsome political science professor agreed with apparent reluctance to answer questions. He declined to give his name.

"Most Jordanians felt that the king's visit [to Israel] was unnecessary," he said. "He could have sent a representative. At the human level, I think the visit was appropri-

ters are national interests."

He was suave and polite but there was a distance that could have stemmed from a condescending attitude but was probably something else. He had not been to visit Israel or even the West Bank. "Why not?" I asked. "For a political science professor it must surely be interesting."

"When I go abroad," he said after a moment's hesitation, "I prefer to go to Europe."

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Watching Palestinians protest construction at Har Homa.

(Brian Hendler)

Har Homa: Spectator sport

By ELLI WOHLGELERENTER

The world's media descended on Har Homa this week to shine the spotlight on Yoram Sulimani going about his business. But Sulimani didn't care. "We do our job, you do your job," said Sulimani, one of the supervisors at the site. "Our job is to prepare ground for building to earn our living, your job is to write what you want. You take photos, you guys talk, everyone does what they have to do."

"We were told to respect the media — we don't interfere with anyone. The whole media thing is separate from us, we don't get involved in it. We're only doing the work, all the rest doesn't interest us, all the politics, all that's related to it."

Talk about the calm in the midst of a storm.

While Sulimani went about his business, all around him was tumult. Hundreds of army and police security personnel were taking up positions around the area in a veritable military operation designed to protect and enable four Caterpillar bulldozers and steam shovels to perform a simple task: dig up some earth.

But there was not the slightest hint of any interference. As IDF helicopters hovered overhead, snipers crouched behind boulders and soldiers rambled alongside the bulldozers making their way up the hill, the only resistance they encountered were the hundreds of journalists who were there to cover this long-awaited landmark event. Indeed, some of the bulldozers couldn't maneuver to other tracts of land because they were blocked by the dozens of cars parked alongside the road.

It was all so anti-climatic. For weeks there were warnings of a violent showdown over the start of this building project, fears that a new intifada could break out with the first shovel of overturned dirt. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that there were intelligence reports indicating that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had given the "green light" to Hamas to mount terrorist attacks against Israel.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, speaking to reporters at the site, said "the overall situation is a tense one. We are in a crisis. What we are doing is to do our best to keep the situation as calm as possible, and at the same time make all the preparations needed for all possibilities. The main stress right now is terror."

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warned the Palestinian Authority not to choose the option of violence. "If it lets trigger-happy people act, it will simply be making a very grave mistake," he said. "We are prepared for any flare-up. Our reaction will be sharp, severe and strong."

The Palestinians were also bracing for the worst, as the PA Health Ministry declared a state of emergency at hospitals, in preparation for the expected casualties.

"We have stockpiled stores of medications for at least two weeks," Abdallah Mohassin, acting director of Ramallah Hospital, was quoted as saying. "We have asked our pharmacist to provide fluids, bandages and chest tubes. We are not doing any elective operations and elective patients are not being admitted now."

But when building finally got under way Tuesday afternoon, nothing happened. A few scuffles broke out between IDF soldiers and Arab teenagers who tried to reach the digging bulldozers, and some fires were burnt in Bethlehem, but that was the extent of it.

Out of sight, on a hill around the bend and facing Har Homa, sat a dozen Palestinian demonstrators led by Faisal Hussein in a tent city erected on Monday to protest the building. It was cold on that hill, and it turned colder as the week went on, but still they sat there, even after the media stopped mobbing them.

There were a few spectators who came to Har Homa to see what all the noise was about, like Ela Brajer, a temporary visitor from France.

"I just want to see with my own eyes what this huge problem about Har Homa is," she said. "I don't know why the whole world has to be involved in this. I would like just to find out what people are upset about."

"No one in France talks about the French political problems, they talk about Har Homa, and they don't even know where it is, what it is, why, who it is for."

But the world certainly learned this week the answers to those questions.

Netanyahu spoke at length to the media defending his decision to build, even in the face of near-unanimous international condemnation. "There is never a good time to build in Jerusalem," he said. "When they say 'Wait for better timing,' they mean 'Don't build, not ever.' We intended to build, we promised to build and we are building."

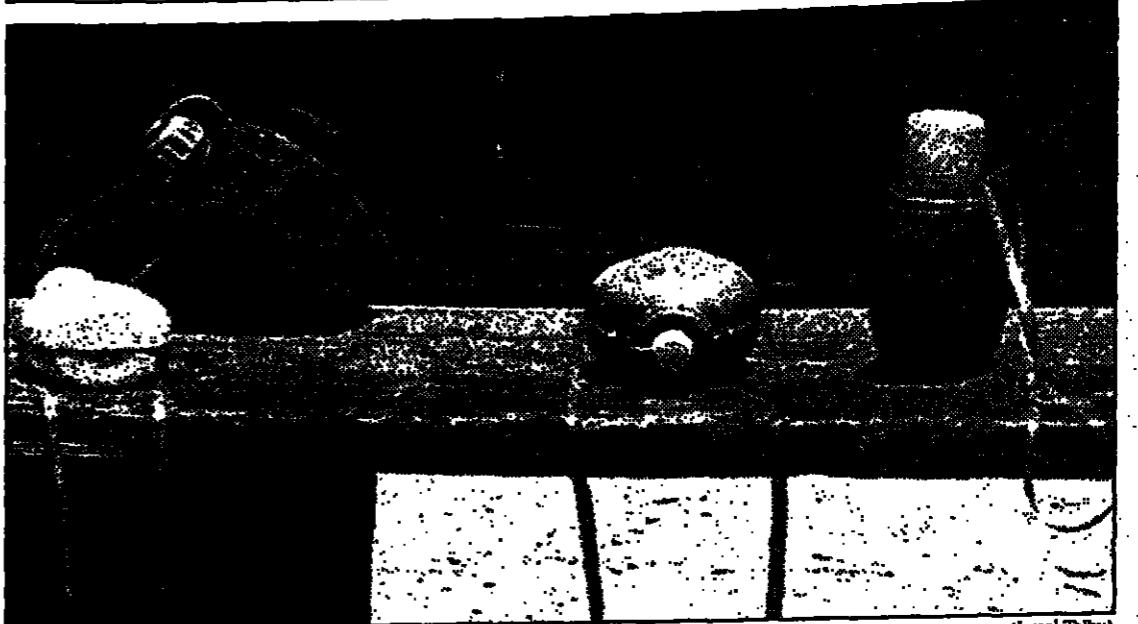
"If we succumb to the threat of violence on an issue as central to the Jewish heart as Jerusalem, where will we stop that surrender? If we are ready to surrender to the threat of the terrorists in Jerusalem, we will surrender everything."

By the next day, after the army of media had moved on to record other events, work at the site continued in a more serious way.

Supervisor Sulimani, who had gone through the same media spectacle when he built the Jericho bypass road, said he knew what would happen next: "It'll take a few days, but soon everyone is going to calm down and we will build Jerusalem."

Do school trips get a passing grade?

The fingers of blame being pointed in the aftermath of the Naharayim slaughter are leading to serious reviews of school trip security regulations, Aryeh Dean Cohen reports



(Israel Today)

The heavy rain and strong wind that forced the cancellation of many school trips this past week may have been welcomed by parents worried by last week's tragedy at Naharayim. But the wintry weather was nothing close to the storm that is tearing through the country's educational establishment after seven girls were killed at the site by a Jordanian soldier.

While Education Ministry officials and representatives of the AMIT Fuerst School of Beit Shemesh traded accusations this week, those who prepare school trips agreed on one thing: the ABCs of security and safety could be improved.

School trips have been an essential part of the curriculum for years, but recently their character has changed.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel spokeswoman Orit Nevo says: "You can't grow up without doing some hiking," noting that the visits are part of the schools' educational program. For years, the SPNI, a non-profit organization, was practically alone in the field — "we invented the school trip," she says.

But privatization in the Israeli economy saw school trips also become big business. With an estimated 4.7 million days of touring a year, according to Nevo, the school-trip business was just too big for the SPNI to handle alone.

Since no license is required to open a firm that organizes trips, "fly-by-night" companies get involved, Nevo says. Many try to steer schools toward trips featuring "attractions" like water parks, where they receive a percentage of the entrance fees. The children demand the attractions, making the companies popular. "If they go to Eilat, they want at least two nights of disco and a full day at the beach," says Nevo, "and teachers don't like to walk a lot anymore."

More attractions means more money for the company, and a lower cost for the principal.

Ideally, the principal planning the trip does so according to a red-and-green handbook, *Special Circular No. 6, 1996/97, Trips in the Educational System*, issued by the Education Ministry director-general. Nevo says that the issue of security and safety "is very organized. It's treated very seriously" in the book. Once the itinerary is agreed upon — usually by the principal, a teacher appointed to coordinate trips, and a tour-company representative — it is filed with the local trips liaison unit, maintained by officials of the SPNI, army and Education Ministry. "It includes where they are going to be, whether it will be on foot, or by bus."

This information is then fed into the liaison unit's computer which issues a document saying whether everything has been approved or not, and outlining any limitations, including whether or not you are allowed to visit the sites you requested," Nevo explains.

"What happened in the case of Naharayim," she believes, "was that when it became a tourist attraction, it was decided by the ministry that one is not allowed to go to the Jordanian-controlled side. There are two parts to the site. If you ask for a permit for Naharayim, the computer will tell you: 'You can walk on the dam road [on the Israeli section], but it will warn you that the Jordanian part is off-limits.'"

Nevo insists that the AMIT Fuerst School "didn't even ask for Naharayim" in their request, so they couldn't have a permit to be there at all. But AMIT Fuerst School officials insisted this week that they had all the necessary permits.

There are others, however, who think the whole permit system is nothing but "a sham." Hanoch Levine runs Jerusalem's Mehavim company specializing in school tours and transport.

He posits that in the Naharayim trip "it appears the principal didn't go according to the permit. But you never do. It just doesn't happen. Why? If you say you're going to leave at eight, you never do. You say 10, a kid twists his ankle, so you leave at 11, which means you have to change the itinerary."

As for last week's incident, Levine conjectures: "A guide comes from Shadmot Mehola who took a group to Naharayim the other day, and last week, and the week before that, and says: 'C'mon, let's go there, it's great. The kids will see Jordanians and peace, it's fantastic.' Who's going to call the principal? They just go. You get somewhere, and they let you in, so [you think] what's the problem?" Levine says school groups were visiting Naharayim "all the time. There's no school that hasn't been there," he claims.

The attack, he says, "was just a matter of bad luck."

he says.

Making sure this doesn't happen is a different story, however. About a year and a half ago, following reports of safety problems, the ministry established a unit to monitor school trips.

Ten inspectors were dispatched to spot check the trips — that's one inspector per 10,000 trips. They check equipment, and whether the school is on the proper route.

According to Zudkevich, around the time of the Naharayim incident, his inspectors caught four school

groups there, two of which had already visited the Jordanian side.

Zudkevich admits he lacks the proper manpower, but says he plans to ask for additional inspectors.

Off-limits areas are periodically updated. While no recommendations were made to stop trips to the capital following last year's Jerusalem bus bombings, Zudkevich said Judea, Samaria and Gaza were placed off-limits by the army after the riots that followed the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit.

Call him an idealist, but Zudkevich believes that there's a simple reason why the ministry's guidelines should be strictly obeyed. "I want to believe that a principal who is aware of his responsibility in such matters does everything possible to make sure all the guidelines are followed. Can I guarantee that all the trips I mentioned were carried out according to them? Definitely not. Which is why we are stepping up supervision. That's great, but we can't ever check every trip. We have to know that there is someone who takes responsibility."

Hana Levine, principal of Jerusalem's Hebrew University Secondary School, agrees. "This whole matter carries with it a tremendous responsibility," she says. Despite all the planning she and

her staff do, "things happen," she says. For example, during a trip to the North, the kayak of some pupils overturned. Fortunately no one was hurt, but kayaking will not be included in the school's trips in the future.

As for the Naharayim incident, Levine says that while she knows the site was off limits, there were definite calls within the educational system to visit there, especially in the framework of "100 Years of Zionism" projects. "So the question is, to what extent the call to visit a particular place echoes in the system, and what backing you give later to a school that did so," she says. "If the principal says he had a permit, then I must be did. The question is, if he got one, how he got it, because it's forbidden."

Despite the incident, parents and pupils questioned this week seemed confident about the trips, although maybe a bit more concerned than before. Arnie Ben-Dor of Jerusalem, who often goes along as an armed escort, said: "I insist on knowing what the route is, but I accept the fact that the principal will do what has to be done." He says the permit system "is very simple and specific," and hopes last week's tragedy "was an isolated incident."

"There are checks and checks and checks all the way through," says Avi Linden of Jerusalem, who's also participated in trips. "I think they're as safe and secure as they can be — even more so than some family trips."

Shaul Cohen, 18, who attends the capital's Boyer High School, said that on his school trips, "they're very careful," although he did remember one to the Golan Heights where his class crossed into an area he thinks was off-limits, and spoke to UN soldiers. Most parents interviewed complained more about late arrivals and children coming home sick than safety or security.

Are the trips safe? Nevo thinks they are, although she had more confidence when large bodies like SPNI ran them.

In the wake of last week's incident, there is growing awareness that even in a country where informality reigns, school-trip rules are not meant to be broken.

Clearly, if the level of safety and security on such trips is to receive more than just a passing grade, it will require a greater effort on the part of parents, teachers, principals and the Education Ministry to ensure the Naharayim tragedy never recurs.

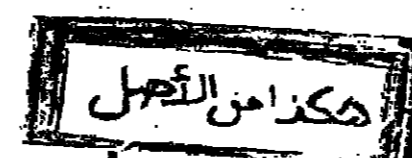
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A town that's grown up

Beit Shemesh is no longer the bitter place that Amos Oz described. The tragedy at Naharayim showed another face of the town, Herb Keinon reports

Beit Shemesh joined She'ar Yashuv last week as a locality that will long be linked in the communal mind to a tragedy. Like Ma'alot. Like Misgav Am. Like Beit She'an. The name will jolt the memory, triggering questions of an "isn't that where?" variety.

in the efforts of people, of complete strangers, to provide food for the families, and in the establishment of a fund for them. Grief bonds. Grief this deep bonds deeply.

Deborah Zwebner, an immigrant from New Jersey, knew none of the girls killed, or their families.

Yet on Thursday night she stood in the rain and cold and attended four of the funerals. "They are our girls," Zwebner said, explaining why she attended the gut-wrenching funerals. "As a mother, we shared our grief together."

There was another inescapable feeling in the town last week, a feeling brought home by conversations with both townspeople and the "city fathers" - the feeling that the larger public's perception of this town is changing.

The restraint and dignity with which the families and the city bore its burden will help erase negative images of Beit Shemesh that have accumulated over years of being viewed as a haven for drug addicts, or a cauldron for the unemployed.

The king's visit put Beit Shemesh on the world's map," said Ya'acovov, obviously wishing it would not have had to happen under such circumstances. "People will see that it is not the same city it was 20 years ago."

In 1983, Amos Oz wrote the critically acclaimed *In The Land of Israel*. He devoted a chapter of it to Beit Shemesh, painting a particularly unflattering image that has plagued the city to this day.

Oz then went on to chronicle a conversation he had with the local folk, with "Moshe and Shimon, Shalom and Aviv, Jojo and Albert, Avram, the other Shimon and many others."

The development town's image took a further battering because of a campaign incident in 1988, when a local man poured a cup of water on Shimon Peres. The incident met with outrage at the time, but also a certain understanding, a feeling of, "Oh well, that's Beit Shemesh, it's to be expected."

As a result of this baggage, not a few pundits commented Sunday that they were "pleasantly surprised" by the way the city reacted to the news of the horror from Naharayim, and the way Beit Shemesh greeted King Hussein.

It was meant as a compliment. But the city elders, if not surprised by this surprise, were certainly put off by it.

"What this shows is that it is easier to change a city than to change a stereotype," said Etoile Gabai, an adviser to Beit Shemesh Mayor Danny Vaknin. "Look, Amos Oz came here a long time ago. He wrote about the city then. Now it is different. It is like seeing a child when he is three, and then again at 20, and asking why at 20 he doesn't act like he did when he was three. It's not fair."

"I know the residents of my town," Vaknin said, sitting with a black tie and black shirt in his office, just having escorted a Labor Party delegation, headed by Peres, to the homes of the bereaved. "I was not surprised."

BEIT SHEMESH today is very different from when Oz visited. Ask residents why they moved to Beit Shemesh, and the changes become apparent.

In the 1960s, nobody wanted to move to Beit Shemesh. It's where they ended up, where they were sent. Asher Elbaz, a local



Beit Shemesh resident Deborah Zwebner, who knew none of the victims but attended four funerals: 'As a mother, we shared our grief together.'

(Sack Uziel)

Beit Shemesh memorial website

In the front yard of the AMIT Peerst school in Beit Shemesh, students crowd around a black-clothed table covered by hundreds of condolence messages from around the world sent by e-mail to a Beit Shemesh website.

The website (www.shemesh.co.il), which was started by Canadian immigrant and Beit Shemesh resident Daniel Aufgang, was established to provide general information about Beit Shemesh for local residents and those thinking of moving there.

"When this horrible incident occurred I thought that after the shiva I would build a complete memorial site for all of the girls, but I noticed that 150 people had logged in to check the site," says Aufgang, who works as a freelance computer and web design consultant. So he then put a simple picture of a memorial candle and a place where people could e-mail in messages to the families.

Within 10 minutes he received the first message from Colombia, and hundreds of condolence messages from around the world followed. From Argentina to Australia, Chile to Croatia, over 3,000 people have visited the site and almost 1,000 have written messages to the families and the friends of the girls who were killed.

Many of the letters were from people who had suffered similar tragedies, from parents in Doblin, Auckland and Buenos Aires.

The British parents of the soldier who was killed in the recent helicopter crash wrote: "To all the families who so tragically lost their daughters, we can only say that we share your pain and anguish, even though we know that you are all mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters each mourning in your own separate ways for each of your seven daughters. We share your pain, and can imagine your grief, because we lost our son Gidon in the helicopter disaster on 4 February."

"May the memory of your loved ones be blessed."

American Jonathan Gersht wrote: "Almost a year ago, I lost 11 loved ones in a plane crash when Commerce Secretary John Brown and 35 others lost their lives when their plane crashed into a mountainside in Delaware, Croatia. Every single day of my life since then I struggle with the thought, whenever I hear of an incident when lives are lost on a large scale, I can empathize in a way most others can't."

With the help of the Beit Shemesh community, Aufgang had copies of the 300 pages of letters delivered to Prime Minister Netanyahu, Netanyahu and King Hussein, as well as to the families of the victims. "One mother asked me how I could help her to make a memorial for her daughter," says Aufgang.

The municipality of Beit Shemesh has given Aufgang money to help pay for the printing of the book after the shiva. The book of condolence letters will be given to all the families and the school on the 40th day of mourning. Teachers can respond directly to the girls' families through the website.

He is also designing a book for the 70th anniversary of the seven girls, with pictures that were taken of their last trip and details about their lives from their friends and families.

Though it is time-consuming because he has to screen out inappropriate letters, Aufgang says that he will keep the site up indefinitely. "That's the point. It's a memorial."

—Amy Klein



Tal playing in the city's center, which began to show some signs of life earlier this week after resembling a ghost town for the first four days after the tragedy.

(Sack Uziel)

insurance agent, is a case in point. "We came here in 1961 from Morocco," he says. "We didn't know about Beit Shemesh, we were sent here. We never used to want to admit we were from Beit Shemesh. We would say that we lived 'near Jerusalem.'"

Ya'acovov, the photo-studio owner, also didn't know of Beit Shemesh when he arrived from Tashkent in 1990. He went there because relatives he was staying with in Ramot had had enough. One of the relatives knew Beit Shemesh because he worked at the Beit Shemesh Engines plant, and pointed Ya'acovov, his wife and two children in that direction.

Zwebner, however, came in 1993 by choice. She wasn't sent by the "institutions," or pointed there by relatives. A mother of three, she lives in a new neighborhood of cottages near the completion of the outskirts of Beit Shemesh. Enter her two-story, sun-lit, tastefully furnished house, with a view of

wood covered hills, and you are immediately struck by the feeling. "Wow, this is Beit Shemesh?"

Zwebner says her family, as well as many of the English-speaking families in the community, was not motivated to move to Beit Shemesh because of cheaper housing. Rather, she said, the family moved there because they had relatives there, liked the view, and the community's feel.

"There used to be a stigma attached to the city," said Moshe Shmuel, standing in Studio Greisha, buying one lottery ticket after another. Shmuel, 40, has lived in the city for 39 years, ever since his parents immigrated from India when he was one year old. "There was a time when we would be embarrassed to say we were from Beit Shemesh. It was all immigrants from the east, primitives. Now that's different. All the new neighborhoods have brought in other people. There is more greenery, the town looks better."

The turnaround, says Kathy Sheeret, director of Vaknin's office, was in 1991, when the government, faced with a massive influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union, saw massive land reserves near Beit Shemesh and decided to add them to the city.

Plans call for the construction of some 29,000 units on the hills south of Beit Shemesh, an area called Ramat Beit Shemesh. The first 3,700 units will be ready for occupation in the summer. In addition, massive building is taking place inside "old" Beit Shemesh as well.

Within a little more than a year, some 1,350 units will have

been built.

The tenants, she says, are no longer the tired and poor, but the upwardly mobile who can afford in Beit Shemesh what they could only dream about in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, where most commute to work.

The city has some 1,100 families from the former Soviet Union, as well as 400 families from English-speaking countries, Sheeret said. They are changing both the face, and the feel, of the city.

"My son is the only native Hebrew speaker in his kindergarten," Sheeret continued. "Once a year the parents have to come in and explain what they do, and this year they are talking about being lawyers, dentists, computer specialists." A far cry from the Beit Shemesh of popular perception.

With the growth come the problems, but the problems are like those of any other city, or any other neighborhood. Beit Shemesh is not the first place where Russians live next to families who originated from Morocco, and where friction arises because of the proximity.

It is also not the only city with rehabilitating drug addicts and pockets of unemployed. The difference between the town now, and how it was back then, is that now these pockets do not define the town. There is much more to it. The drug addicts and unemployed stigmatized the town, Sheeret said. Now the stigma is that Beit Shemesh is becoming haredi.

Sheeret, apparently worried that this could also chase people away, quickly tries to dispel it, saying there is only one haredi neighborhood in town, and that she does not know of plans to turn Ramat Beit Shemesh into Bnei Brak.

Sheeret does not give the impression that her words were spontaneous, but rather - as one of the city's "salespeople" - she has needed to repeat them often in the past.

Perhaps, she jokes, the changing stigma is in itself a sign of the town's progress.

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The twisted path of military justice

The military court which convicted Rami Dotan described his crimes as 'unprecedented in their gravity.' Yet the decision to release him was almost inevitable, Dan Izenberg reports



Dotan has been described as being chronically ill - and a chronic liar. (AP)

The High Court of Justice has one month to decide whether the precarious health of ex-Brigadier-General Rami Dotan, convicted in March 1991 of exploiting his senior Air Force position to embezzle \$12 million from the government, takes precedence over the gravity of the crimes he committed and the ongoing damage it has caused the state.

Last week, a military court appointed to hear Dotan's appeal to be released from jail after serving half of his 13-year sentence ruled in his favor, citing his chronically poor state of health as the reason for its decision.

The ruling has aroused a storm of protest in the army, among national figures including President Ezer Weizman, in the media and the public. MKs Yossi Sarid and Yossi Katz, the Movement for Quality Government and Amital, the Citizens for Good Government movement, have petitioned the High Court, the only body empowered to overrule the military court.

Justice Eliezer Goldberg decided on Tuesday that the High Court would hear the petitions before April 22, the date of Dotan's scheduled release.

Dotan must be one of the most hated people in Israel because of the scale of his crimes and the fact that he was a senior officer in the IDF, still popularly regarded as an oasis of purity and idealism in an increasingly self-serving and often corrupt ruling elite.

President Weizman, a former air force commander, set a presidential precedent by asking Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to petition the High Court against the decision, writing that Dotan's "crime is extremely severe in its own right and in terms of the damage it has caused the nation. The entire Israeli public is shocked by the gravity of his deeds."

The three-man committee appointed to consider Dotan's appeal included Colonel Mordechai Levy, head of the Southern Command Military Court, Colonel Motti Mark, Chief Army Mental Health Officer and representative of the Chief of General Staff, and attorney Nimrod Eshkol, the representative of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The committee's ruling has not yet been officially published.

However, according to Dotan's lawyer, Daniel Friedman, the decision to grant his client an early release was unanimous. Mark wanted to release Dotan immediately. Eshkol wanted to release him after he had completed seven years of his sentence. The compromise was April 22. The committee based its decision on the state of Dotan's health. "All the members of the committee," wrote Levi, "were convinced that because of the prisoner's severe chronic illness and because of the constant threat

"The entire Israeli public is shocked by the gravity of his deeds."

—President Ezer Weizman

to his life, the effective prison sentence must be significantly reduced and most of it converted to a suspended sentence.

Friedman told *The Jerusalem Post* that Dotan's blood pressure is extremely high - 200/140 - and that he has suffered three strokes in the past year. "His blood pressure cannot be reduced because he cannot take any more drugs," said Friedman. "Releasing him from jail could save his life because being in prison adds to his stress which increases his blood pressure. His doctors say that if he is set free, there is a chance he won't die."

STRANGELY enough, given the severity of his crimes, which the military court that convicted him described as "unprecedented in their gravity and scale in the history of IDF jurisprudence," the committee's decision to release him was almost inevitable. The

is no one else to present the state's case. Given the committee's dual and conflicting role, the defense has the clear advantage.

During the first two committee hearings, Friedman presented several medical experts to testify about Dotan's precarious health. Afterwards, on its own initiative, the committee summoned witnesses from the army and the Defense Ministry to explain why it was dangerous to set Dotan free. One of them, Defense Ministry investigator Gad Waterman, warned that Dotan, whom he described as a congenital liar, would cause serious harm by maliciously exploiting dormant US suspicions that he had been acting as an agent of the Israeli government which had used him to siphon off money for secret IDF military projects not eligible for US aid.

Confronted on the other hand by a professional, determined and

energetic lawyer, the committee was not convinced by the state's arguments.

In most cases, the army does not care about the imbalanced structure of the committee because it prefers to see prisoners released from its chronically congested jails. In fact, according to Friedman, the committee has approved early release in 92 percent of the cases it has heard.

But Dotan is not "most prisoners." In fact, according to the law, because of the length of his sentence, he should have been incarcerated in a civilian prison, where he would have been eligible for release only after completing two-thirds, rather than half, of his sentence. Dotan requested to be imprisoned in a military jail on the grounds that he was privy to state secrets and would be vulnerable to criminals in jail, who might extract them by brute force. But some claim the real reason for Dotan's request was that he knew he would be able to get out of a military jail more than two years earlier.

The other strange thing about this case is that even though both Mordechai and Chief of General-Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak had personal representatives on the committee and even thought the hearings stretched over a period of seven months, neither knew about it until the committee's decision was published.

Mordechai was not embarrassed to tell the *Post* that he had no prior information about the decision which the committee was about to make. Had he known, he would have done whatever was in his power and prerogative to prevent such a decision.

It is not clear whether Mordechai could in fact have done anything because, despite its relatively low status, the committee is so independent as to be under no superior scrutiny other than that of the High Court of Justice. But, by his own admission, he did not try because he did not know what was going on, even though the case involved the worst criminal in the history of the army and even though he had a personal representative on the committee.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL (Res.) Shalom Ben-Moshe was one of the many people shocked by the decision to release Dotan. The committee failed "to consult with people who would have presented all of the other relevant factors such as the effect of his release on our relations with the US and on the morale of the army and the air force," said Ben-Moshe, who served as commander of the Military Police during Dotan's investigation. "The court did not summon people who could have explained the effect of the decision on the general public. The Dotan case is an ethical and moral issue."

Ben-Moshe charged that the court ignored the enormity of Dotan's crime. "Dotan was a senior army officer," he said. "We expect senior officers to behave in an exemplary manner. But Dotan betrayed his superiors, including the commander of the air force who put his faith in him and gave him his backing until the very last second. Dotan lied to him."

"He betrayed the air force, where he was raised, and he betrayed his subordinates whom he taught and who believed in him. Dotan ordered them to do things. They did them, even though they knew they were illegal, because they believed in him. He betrayed the sacred values of friendship and the army."

Avi Kostner is on trial in New Jersey for killing his children. He didn't want them to be raised as Christians, Marilyn Henry reports



Kostner in court: Driven by religious zeal or sheer evil? (AP)

Avi Kostner was losing his children. He couldn't bear it, and so he killed them. Allen "Avi" Kostner, who has a history of instability, says he killed his children to protect them from his ex-wife's Christianity. This month, a jury in New Jersey will sentence Kostner for the murders of his children, Geri Beth, 12, and Ryan, 10. In confusing appearances in court, Kostner, now 52, has angrily asked for the death penalty, saying that he had not been allowed to explain himself.

"When it was time to 'explain,'" he cited religion. "We are part of the tribe of Levi," he said. "That takes us back 3,700 years. These were my children. My children cannot be raised as Christians."

"I am not the first father in history to kill his children to prevent conversion," he said in an agitated statement to the court. "I could not allow their Jewish souls to be cut off from Judaism. It has happened before in Jewish history, during the Crusades, the Inquisition - fathers killed their own children to prevent them from being converted."

Kostner and his ex-wife, Lynn Mison, had been mired in a bitter dispute over custody and money since 1986.

They had married in 1979, separated in 1985, and divorced in 1988. Mison, who had converted to Judaism after her marriage to Kostner, had renounced Judaism after their divorce. She remarried and was raising her children as Christians.

On June 26, 1994, Kostner took his children out to dinner, then to a movie, then bowling. Then he gave tranquilizers to Geri Beth and Ryan, put them in a van and tried to poison them with carbon monoxide, according to news accounts.

Kostner's son died of carbon-monoxide poisoning. It was not so easy with his daughter. She regained consciousness and tried to escape, so Kostner strangled her. Then he took 64 tranquilizers. With the bodies of his children in the back of the bonowed van, Kostner was found near the police station in Teaneck, New Jersey, slumped over the wheel in what looked like a drug overdose.

At the time, Kostner was an unemployed cab driver under psychiatric care for depression. "In another time and place, he would have been known as the shtetl schnorrer," a neighbor once told one of the local newspapers. Kostner was a "charity member" of the Teaneck community, according to news accounts. He lived in a borrowed apartment and got free food from local restaurants. He had borrowed the car he used to murder his children.

Kostner's primary occupation seems to have been going to court to get greater access to his children, and he filed more than 150 motions and legal briefs in Family Court saying that Mison had violated his visitation rights. In 1992, he appeared at a rally for divorced fathers, standing in front of the

county courthouse wearing a sandwich board that said: "I divorced her, not them." Also on the board was a swastika, presumably showing that the family-court system resembled Nazism. And Kostner was wearing a yellow star, which read "Dad."

Court records, however, also show that Geri Beth and Ryan pleaded with the court to be spared from spending time with Kostner. Originally from Hempstead,

He once appeared at a rally for divorced fathers, wearing a yellow star which read 'Dad.'

New York, Kostner reportedly has battled mental illness since the age of 11. Last week, he told the court of his childhood, which included the drunken spells of his mother and beatings by his stepfather.

Kostner was a confounding mystery to many in Teaneck who tried to assist him, according to local news accounts. He misrepresented his past, saying he was a college graduate, possibly from the Hebrew University, although it appears he was a high-school drop-out. He lived in Israel in the 1960s, working on kibbutzim and waiting tables in Eilat. According

to one press account, he was briefly married to an unidentified Israeli woman in 1967, and returned to the US a year later when that marriage ended. Kostner claimed he had participated in the liberation of Jerusalem during the Six Day War, although reporters could find no record of Kostner's Israeli citizenship or military service.

In New Jersey, Kostner had occasional part-time work as a cab driver and Hebrew teacher. He led a local scouting troop, and a few months before the murder, had won the Shofar award from the national Jewish Committee on Scouting for "outstanding service by adults in the promotion of scouting among Jewish youth." He often referred to himself as a "professional Jew," according to a report in *The Jewish Standard*, a weekly newspaper in northern New Jersey.

In court last week, Kostner said the murders "were committed out of sheer desperation."

He blamed Mison, the court that gave her custody of the children, and the rabbis to whom he turned for help. "I only wanted to put an end to the pain, anguish and suffering that took over our lives," he said.

Although the death penalty was restored in New Jersey in 1983, it has been sought by prosecutors less than a half-dozen times. It is not clear what arguments would sway or discourage a jury. It also is not clear what Kostner believes.

At a psychiatric facility where he was held shortly after the murders, Kostner told a Teaneck rabbi, David Feldman, "I didn't know I had this evil in me." "He said 'evil,'" Feldman said. "He knows it wasn't religious zeal."

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

His name was Ronni Milo

One Shabbat afternoon 17 years ago, while roaming the streets of Jerusalem's German Colony, I suddenly noticed Israel's newly appointed foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir, marching energetically along Rehov Ernek Refaim all by himself. It was a crisp, bright, spring day, and - pretty much for the heck of it - I started following the diminutive spy who had emerged from the Mossad's cold.

To my astonishment, most passersby did not identify Shamir, even though for the previous three years he had been their Knesset Speaker. And if Shamir had yet to become famous, fewer yet realized that behind the taciturn underground fighter lurked an even less known man who was determined to crown Shamir as Israel's prime minister.

His name was Ronni Milo. A rabble-rousing rightist MK who back then routinely locked horns with leftist peace activists, Milo is now striving to loom tall as the self-appointed champion of Tel Aviv's ostensibly besieged secularists.

As Israeli ironies go, Milo's current comrade in arms - McDonald's local franchisee Omri Padan - was among the Peace Now founders whom the shrewd, cynical and disingenuous Milo once accused of being on the CIA's payroll.

Back then, by tirelessly courting, coaxing and cajoling thousands of

Likud hacks across the country, Milo prepared the ground for the swift transfer of his ailing father-in-law Menachem Begin's inheritance to arch-hardliner Shamir.

Milo's gambit proved more than worthwhile: the former campus agitator was appointed deputy foreign minister, and - having used that position in order to earn some much needed respectability - subsequently became minister of police, environment and the interior. Indeed, Milo's achievement, won through a masterful manipulation of the old parliamentary system's worst flaws, has yet to win its rightful credit as one of the most remarkable feats in the history of king-making.

Yet for us, Milo's success in catapulting the anonymous, unimaginative and anti-charismatic Shamir to a premiership second in length only to David Ben-Gurion's, would not have been relevant now if not for Milo's latest crusade, to keep the Ramat Aviv mall open on Shabbat.

The question, for those struggling against Orthodox entrepreneur Lev Leviev's intention to behave with his newly acquired property as he sees fit, is how to treat the man who purports to lead their cause; the answer is - with contempt.

IN PRINCIPLE, politicians who never change their views - like Milo's old mentor - are a dangerous species. Yet that does not mean that those who do change their minds should not be treated with suspicion. It is one thing to undergo a deep mental metamorphosis and in turn pay for it a hefty personal price, the way, say, Moshe Dayan and Ezer Weizman did. It is another thing to

merely open the window, lend an ear to the mob, and follow its lead.

Brothers-in-law Dayan and Weizman had been intimately familiar - as military leaders - with the gruesome face of battle, and paid dearly for their convictions: Following his defection to Begin's cabinet - a move which ultimately paved the way for Sadat's journey to Jerusalem - Dayan was ostracized by most of his Labor party colleagues, some of whom publicly dubbed him "prostitute." Weizman, after abandoning Begin for his foot-dragging on Palestinian autonomy, was expelled from the Likud, the party which he had personally led to power as campaign manager in 1977.

Milo - who some claim never fully completed his unheroic military service as an advocate - made sure he would not only pay nothing for changing his spots, but in fact figured he would use that transfiguration in order to write a new and even more improbable chapter in his already illustrious political career.

The man (Shamir) and the idea of Greater Israel - the old horses on which he had so successfully bet - were dead, figured Milo the morning after the Likud's electoral fiasco in 1992. And so, in yet another skillful maneuver of a weak man intent on extracting the maximum from a rather inferior position, Milo settled for a mayoral race, even though he had already presided over Israel's entire police force, and enjoyed a Rasputin-like aura as the prime minister's closest protegee.

Yet alongside this humility lies the arrogance of a man who - having accurately detected the public's

mood - thinks he can now pose as a national leader, a true ideologue, and a thinker of Aristotelian dimensions.

In fact, Milo's prosaic truth is that once having mounted its saddle, he noticed that the Leftist Trojan horse with which he is now parading through the Right might carry him even farther than the old Shamir one he so skillfully nursed.

After all, with Shamir, Milo merely impressed party rank and file; now, as a newly baptized progressive he is a media celebrity, an embodiment of the consensus, a permanent fixture in political talk shows who gets ample exposure for his posturing as the apostle who would show masses of Likudniks the way to all of yesterday's profanities and today's ideals, from Palestinian statehood to McDonald's cheeseburgers.

YET IN reality Milo is neither a thinker nor a leader.

On the thinking level, he really cared for his fate, and understood the potency of the powder keg called religious-secular relations. Milo may have seen in Lev Leviev the very role model Israel's haredim so sorely lack.

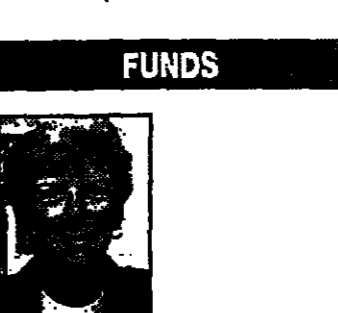
Not only has Leviev served a full three years in the army, and not only is he a self-made man who by doing honest diamond business has earned a fortune after having immigrated here from Uzbekistan as a teenager; in fact, Leviev is a non-handi who gets by without clinging onto taxpayers' pockets. Any sensible Israeli anxious over the deformities wrought on this country by haredi politics should place a man like

Leviev on a pedestal, and hope to see more people like him sprout within and without the ghetto walls which surround Bnei Brak and Mea She'arim.

On the leadership level, Milo is the same man who preferred to remain shielded behind Shamir's apron and cabinet seat, rather than crusade for what he claims to have contended all the time, namely that Israel should concede land to the Palestinians. Milo emerged from this closet - by abstaining in the Knesset vote over the Oslo Accords - only well after the Likud's loss of power, and as part and parcel of a sycophantic tactic aimed at becoming liberal Tel Aviv's new champion, and mayor.

Now, true to this self-centered and non-leadership record, Milo has - yet again - lifted his finger against the wind, captured the anti-religious mob's hunger for bread, games and rolling haredi heads, and threatened to launch a secular invasion of Bnei Brak if the sanctity of Saturday shopping is violated by the fully legal and evidently moral actions of a Sabbath-observing entrepreneur.

It's time Milo understood that rather than see in him a noble crusader, Middle Israelis - while languishing in his dreary, peeling and sweating Tel Aviv's perennial traffic jams - expect him to focus on realizing his election promises to give that sorry metropolis a subway. Should he deliver on that one, we'll all be there to applaud him. And as long as he hasn't, Milo would be wise to leave us alone as we seek less populist, and more effective, ways to accommodate with haredi Israel.



By REVERLEE BLACK

Happy or sad, a way to remember

Many contributors to our funds use the opportunity to commemorate events both happy and sad, to send greetings to relatives and friends worldwide.

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The tone of the letter suggested that Hussein was back to the old pan-Arab game of making no allowance for Jewish sensibilities and blaming all wrong turns on us. His visit last Sunday restored much of that trust.

But he must yet take at least two more steps before he earns it back in full:

End the finger-pointing at the Jews/Zionists/Israel; Expunge from his country's lexicon the fake history of the century-old Arab-Jewish conflict circulating under his imprimatur (see my column of March 7) and start courageously expounding the truth about it.

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A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Jordan's King Hussein last Sunday knelt himself into the hearts of all but incurably skeptical Jews by the way he conducted his condolence calls on the families of the seven girls one of his soldiers murdered the previous Thursday.

But there might have been no cause for his condolences if he hadn't written that whining letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a few days before the murder.

If I didn't think he meant it in all sincerity, I'd have considered it a Purim joke - a bad one, as we saw just a few days later: we cannot dismiss the possibility that the letter created an atmosphere in which that soldier thought he would thus defend Hashemite honor.

The letter took one of the forms of classical antisemitism. The earliest recorded form of this is the one attributed to the Egyptian ruler who imposed slavery on the Jews sojourning in his land 33 centuries ago.

That pharaoh, who ascended the throne some time after Joseph had saved the country from economic disaster, justifies his decision to enslave the Jews thus: "...the Children of Israel outnumber us and are too powerful for us. Let's outwit them before they increase yet fur-

ther, and... they join our enemies and fight against us..." (Exodus 1:7-10).

In the Egyptian's perception, just a couple of generations after Jacob and his 70 progeny went down to Egypt, the Jews already outnumbered and outpowered the natives. Shades of the findings of public-opinion surveys in several Western lands to the effect that large segments of the public believe their countries have tens of millions of Jews. And shades of "The Jews control all the..." and "...aren't loyal."

Another classical form is that of Haman, the arch-villain of the Purim story; the Jews are clannish, different, get rid of them. Here are Haman's own words in asking King Ahasuerus for a royal edict ordering the extermination of the Jews of the Persian empire:

"There is a certain unassimilated people, scattered among the many provinces of your realm, who keep themselves apart, whose laws and ways are different from those of every other people, and who do not keep your majesty's laws. It is not seemly for your majesty to tolerate them" (Esther 3:8-13).

A third form, the one reflected in Hussein's letter, was expressed in the slogan that was popular in tsarist Russia, "Bey Zhidov, spassni Rossiyu/Strike the Jew and save Russia!"

If developments are net to your liking, strike the Jews/Zionists/Israelis - indict them for producing Jesus and arraign them for crucifying him; blame them for the Black Death; charge them with producing both commu-

nism and capitalism with their respective evils; accuse them of colluding with Hitler's Germany to perpetrate the Holocaust in order to produce Israel; if you are PLO/PNA, convict them of not surrendering to your every demand.

WHAT WICKEDNESS of ours prompted Hussein's letter?

It seems that for a change, our prime minister had the temerity to look after our interests rather than those of Hussein or Yasser Arafat. For a moment we didn't capitulate to every Arab and American demand. For a moment we dared to firmly demand that our Arabizant interlocutors p-o-o-p-l-e-o-a-t-t-e, a concept that seems to have been expunged from the glossary of the Oslo Process.

Hussein wrote as if there were no premises other than his own concerning the Oslo Process, and as if all his premises were unimpeachably true - and also, for that matter, those of Arafat, and of US President Bill Clinton, the European Union, Russia - everybody's except Israel's.

He wrote as if he were Father Peace himself: "The saddest reality... is that I do not find you by my side in working to fulfill God's will for the final reconciliation of all the descendants of the children of Abraham."

But Hussein omitted certain factors. He didn't mention that too many of those "children of Abraham" prefer the path of such of their more recent ancestors as Jacob/Israel's grandnephew (through his brother, Esau) Amalek

(Deuteronomy 25:17-18) and Amalek's descendant Haman; the path of such cousins as Isaac's brother Ishmael's descendants including many Husseinis, Izzedin al-Kassam, Arafat himself, Hafez Assad, Saddam Hussein, and that murderous Jordanian soldier.

Continuing in that personal vein, Hussein told Netanyahu: "Your course of actions seems bent on destroying all I believe in or have striven to achieve with the Hashemite family since Faisal the First and Abdullah to the present times."

Faisal I, Hussein's granduncle, who after World War I was king of Syria for five months and then of Iraq for 12 years, indeed, "welcomed the prospect of Jewish cooperation and in fact regarded it as essential to the realization of Arab ambitions." The British and the French soon strangled that prospect. (See the richly documented A Peace to End All Peace by David Fromkin, N.Y., Avon, 1989).

Abdullah, Hussein's grandfather, wanted to be "King of All Palestine" - i.e., his Transjordan merged with what was Mandatory Western Palestine. In pursuit of that goal, he was one of six Arab rulers who sent their armies to crush newborn Israel in 1948. During that war and in its aftermath, he ordered or tolerated the destruction or desecration of all the Jewish holy places in Jerusalem's eastern sector that he occupied.

Afterwards neither he nor his successors, including our Father Peace, abided by the Israel-Jordan armistice agreement, according to which we were to enjoy free access to the

Western Wall, the Hebrew University and Hadassah Medical Organization facilities on Mt. Scopus, and the Mount of Olives Jewish cemetery. At the latter, the Jordanians desecrated numerous graves and smashed or otherwise vandalized tens of thousands of tombstones, including the use of many of them as army latrine floors and walls.

Father Peace himself thought he was joining the winning side when he let Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser bamboozle him into attacking Israel in June 1967. And he pleaded "I am an Arab" when he supported Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War.

UNTIL THAT letter, King Hussein and his brother, Crown Prince Hassan, were the only Arab leaders or spokespersons in whose intentions and words of recent years many of us placed any trust at all - however qualified.

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Destroying the concept of evil



By SHLOMO RISKIN

The Sabbath preceding Purim is called Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance, a time to remember what the wicked nation Amalek did to the Israelites when we left Egypt. On this Sabbath, an extra Torah scroll is opened to the section in Deuteronomy dealing with Amalek.

Interestingly enough, the Amalek battle first appears in Exodus, which will be read on Purim morning. The Exodus passage closes a sequence that opens with the crossing of the Red Sea: "And then came Amalek and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And God said to Moses: 'Write this for a memorial in the book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua, for I will utterly blot out [Amalek] the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven'" (Ex. 17:8-16).

Here the Amalek attack appears in its historical context. However, in Deuteronomy the reference appears in a portion rich with 27 positive and 47 negative commandments. And then comes the final commandment:

"Remember what Amalek did to you by the way, when you were coming out of Egypt: how he met you by the way, and smote your hindmost, all that were feeble in the rear when you were faint and weary, and feared not God. Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies round about, in the land which the Lord your God gives you... that you shall blot out [Amalek] the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven" (Deut. 25:17-19).

These passages raise a number of questions. First, the passage in Deuteronomy would seem far more appropriate in Exodus, since it gives more details about the attack. Second, in Exodus, the word is Amalek, while in Deuteronomy it is Amalek. Who will actually do the job? Third, if we've already been given rest from our enemies, why do we have to blot out Amalek? And if Amalek is still our enemy, what kind of rest is it?

Finally, why a special Sabbath for remembering Amalek, when during the reading of the Book of Esther we blot out Haman's name with the noise of a "grogger," in symbolic remembrance of "blotting out Amalek"?

To answer these questions, we

must turn to Maimonides' Laws of Kings, Ch. 5, where he codifies the commandment regarding the destruction of the seven indigenous nations of Canaan. Maimonides concludes that this directive is now obsolete, since "their identity has been lost" (Semaachin, King of Assyria, forcibly confounded the peoples he captured). Yet in the very next law, when Maimonides codifies that we have to destroy Amalek, he does not mention a word about their identity having been lost.

On this basis, my revered rebbe Rav J.B. Soloveitchik quoted his grandfather, Rav Haim of Brisk, who distinguished between the physical nation of Amalek that once lived near Canaan and the concept of evil identified with Amalek. This latter Amalek exists in every generation - and must be continuously destroyed.

With this in mind, our two passages make more sense.

The verses in Exodus describe a physical attack on a vulnerable people. Thus threatened, the Israelites had to counter-attack. And since we are the people of God's covenant, after we have done whatever we can, the Almighty promises that He will finish the job: "I will blot out Amalek."

But Amalek is not merely a specif-

ic nation at a specific moment. Amalek rejects the idea that Israel is a unique and eternal nation, whose mission is to perfect the world with ethical monotheism. Hence, the spiritual heirs of Amalek include the Nazis, the Soviet communists, and those Arabs who will not rest until we disappear from the Land.

And if Amalekism is a concept that denies the uniqueness of our people, it can even rear its ugly head from within the nation itself.

"Remember what Amalek did to you by the way [baderech, by the road], when you came out of Egypt" (Deut. 25:17). Note that the text does not state "when you were on the way to Israel!" We will always be vulnerable to Amalekite propaganda from within when we lose sight of our national goal of statehood, and its accompanying ideal that "from Zion shall come forth Torah, and the word of God from Jerusalem."

In this instance we were on our way out of Egypt, but had not yet begun to direct our sights toward Israel.

"How he met you by the way - [asher korchu baderech]." The word korchu (met you) resembles the word milke, meaning chance or accident. Whoever sees history as happenstance leaves himself open to Amalekite influence.

Buy Blue & White and keep Israel in the Pink

THE WEEK THAT WAS

PM's somersault spins heads

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Bulky he may be, but Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu managed to surprise followers and opponents alike with an acrobatic policy back-flip. Trying to follow it gave Palestinians a pain in the neck.

Netanyahu's more devious supporters said his proposal to cut directly to permanent settlement negotiations and dispense with the interim Oslo agreements was a good way to avoid Oslo pitfalls. What they really meant was that it is a good way to circumvent the entire Oslo process.

The moribund Labor opposition at first was not sure how to regard this somersault. Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin said it was not a bad idea. Ehud Barak said it depends.

Only Ephraim Sneh had a quick-fire response: "Netanyahu doesn't want a permanent settlement. He wants a permanent war."

"Har-Homa was only the beginning of Netanyahu's campaign to sabotage the Oslo interim agreements," said Sneh. "He doesn't begin to understand what a disaster he is bringing on us."

To ensure there were no misunderstandings, Netanyahu made it clear the new policy had nothing to do with any idea of a national unity government. His government needs broad public support, not a change in composition, he said.

Timely insight of the week came from Labor MK Shevah Weiss - before Netanyahu's new policy was known.

Weiss said every time Netanyahu tries to edge towards peace in a decent, non-provocative way, he proves he cannot pull it off without Labor's help. "Now look at what a ridiculous position Labor has put itself in," said Weiss.

"It's offering Netanyahu a parliamentary safety net to do something he cannot possibly do without the opposition. Netanyahu then takes credit for it and adds 'only the Likud can'."

"Well, the Likud can't. I say to them, if you can do it, fine. If you can't, quit. Or make Labor a serious offer of partnership on the basis of the peace process and a fair division of portfolios and responsibility."

IN DEFENSE OF MINISTRY

Labor front-runner Ehud Barak fired a leadership cannon with an uncompromising stand against the national unity government idea.

If Peres keeps coyly edging towards such an arrangement, Barak seems determined to lead the Labor sectors opposed to the idea. "I can see no reason to join this rotten government of disgrace and failure," says he. He didn't add, "especially if Shimon Peres while still party leader gets



MK Shevah Weiss's insight of the week: Netanyahu needs Labor more than he thinks he does. (Isaac Harari)

offered the senior portfolio." The unvarnished fact is no one has made any offer. This in no way inhibits Peres and a group of hopeful MKs from launching armadas of Purim trial balloons.

Pure seasonal fantasy? Well, maybe not entirely. At a meeting between Peres and several parliamentarians in Jerusalem's prestigious Taverna restaurant this week, the MKs received a distinct impression from Peres that Netanyahu has actually made up his mind to seek a unity govern-

ment. Or rather, they understood that in Peres's recent tete-a-tete with Netanyahu, the two had not only discussed the issue but agreed that if, perchance, a unity government should miraculously surface, Peres would be the defense minister.

That raises the question of whether Netanyahu is considering a unity government for the talks on a permanent settlement.

Peres and the MKs discussed the party's position. The guess was Peres could be assured of 70 percent support in the Labor central committee if a cast-iron offer were made. Some MKs also expressed confidence that even Barak could be persuaded to bury his objections if offered a portfolio that was "heavy-duty" enough.

Like defense. Ah, but how unfortunate that one already appears spoken for - if only in the alleged Bibi-Peres conversation.

Peres hotly denied "galloping" headlong with the unity bit between his teeth. But he did stress he would do anything to save the peace process.

Back in reality land, it remains clear even to Peres that a unity government idea could not be discussed until the Bar-On affair is concluded - and then only if Netanyahu emerges from it spotless.

By which time, Purim and its whimsy will have passed and, as usual, we will be somewhere else.

GRAPEVINE

Yossi Beilin a sex symbol?

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHILE THEY might have some reservations about his leadership abilities, few people would doubt the negotiating skills of Labor leadership hopeful Yossi Beilin. Sex appeal is another question altogether. But apparently it's going to be an issue in the upcoming leadership elections. Otherwise, why would a group calling itself Women for Yossi Beilin be campaigning on his behalf?

MOST OF the real heavyweights in the insurance business were amongst the 350 insurance agents and brokers who attended the three-day Insurance '97 conference at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Jerusalem. But the participant most familiar to other guests mingling in the lobby was former star hoopster Tal Brody, who 20 years ago led Maccabi Tel Aviv to victory in the European Cup finals. In the insurance game for the past 15 years,



Brody on the ball (David Philipson)

hand. With elections coming up, he figured it just wasn't right for his image.

WHEN HE turned 70 last May, Jerusalem-based journalist Richard Oestermann asked relatives and friends in Israel and abroad not to buy him gifts but to contribute trees to the Jewish National Fund. He had expected 70 trees, but well over 10 times that number were purchased in his name. The sum total of trees has since grown to 1,100, including 75 contributed by Dagen, the Norwegian newspaper for which he writes. Oestermann had hoped to have a tree-planting ceremony on Tu B'Shvat or thereabouts, but the weather was not conducive. So he postponed it till last week, taking some 25 people from all over the country to Tzrom, a hilltop location near Beit Shemesh, where they planted trees.

while he was being treated and then drove him home. He also remembered to inquire about his welfare and to send him flowers the following day.

HAVING CELEBRITIES in the neighborhood makes life that much simpler for community organizations casting around for a guest speaker. The committee of the Beit Yisrael congregation in Jerusalem's picturesque Yemin Moshe neighborhood didn't have to look very far when it launched its new lecture series. Distinguished poet Yehuda Amichai happily responded to the invitation to talk and read from his own works at the congregation's recently restored synagogue.

THEY'RE NOT part of a regular group, none of them has Irish roots, but they all love Irish music. Which made St. Patrick's Day as good a reason as any for singers and instrumentalists Mike Edelman from England, Aron Gutman from England, and Andrea Jacobs from the US and



Levy: Scrutinizer of mezuzot (Isaac Harari)

Brody still stumbles over Hebrew grammar, but he's right on the ball when it comes to policies.

SOMETHING ISN'T kosher in the ministerial realm. Not every government minister takes the trouble to check out whether the mezuzot in his domain are kosher. But considering that Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy comes from the National Religious camp, it was on the cards that he would eventually get around to examining the mezuzot in his orbit. Of the 180 mezuzot that he looked at, 175 were flawed. To Levy, this signified a red alert to the condition of mezuzot in other ministries and in branch offices of his own ministry. The question now is whether the cost of replacing the mezuzot will come out of the budgets of the individual ministries, whether it is the responsibility of the Religious Affairs Ministry or whether the squeeze will have to be put on the Finance Ministry.

CONSIDERING HIS own opposition to smoking, Oded Lifshitz, general manager of the Israel Hiltons, did not put in an appearance to greet members of the cigar smokers club when they met for dinner this week at the Tel Aviv Hilton where he is headquartered. But the hotel's resident manager Ronald van Weezel who has been smoking cigars since 1988 when he gave up cigarettes, was puffing in style along with television personality Yigal Shilon who is president of club and Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo who happily puffed away at a somewhat smaller version of what Christopher Columbus described as a fire stick. While he obviously relished his smoke, Milo refused to be photographed with a cigar in his

VENERABLE DIPLOMAT though he may be, Gideon Rafael, the former director general of the Foreign Ministry, is not backward in coming forward. In fact when he rose to both make a statement and



Olmert: On a collision course (Isaac Harari)

ask a question following the address by US ambassador Martin Indyk to the Israel Council on Foreign Relations, he ignored the microphones on either side of the Laromne Hotel's banquet room and mounted the dais to usurp Indyk's own position. There was much good-natured laughter from the many diplomats and policy makers in attendance.

THERE ARE few things that will prevent Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert from attending a weekend soccer match. But there are times when civic responsibilities take priority over his enthusiasm for the game. Earlier this month, for instance, he was involved in a mild collision with one of his constituents.

Olmert himself evacuated the man from his car, drove him to Magen David Adom, hung around



Goldie's secret? 'Green Juice'

Israeli Vered Eyal to get together informally at Jerusalem's quaint eatery-cum-library Tmol Shilshom. Eyal, a flutist and singer, is actually a member of a band which specializes in Irish music, but she had no trouble harmonizing with Edelman, Gutman and Jacobs, whose spirited jigs and melancholy dirges started at 11 p.m. and continued to well beyond the witching hour.

SHEER SURVIVAL has contributed to the popularity of elder statesman Abba Eban, who is much in demand these days to share his reminiscences of events leading up to the United Nations resolution on the partition of Palestine and the subsequent establishment of the State of Israel. Eban, who has outlived most of the leading figures in that particular chapter of Jewish history, is currently in New York, where he is being swamped with requests to tell it as it was.

IN ADDITION to being a fitness freak, Goldie Hawn, 51, maintains her youthful image with a daily dose of Green Juice, the ingredients of which are celery, parsley and green pepper. She also steers clear of sugar and dairy products, but occasionally indulges in burgers and French fries. Kurt Russell, who is Hawn's significant other, this week celebrated his 46th birthday.

IN HIS screen roles, Walter Matthau is often cast as the anti-heroic victim of circumstance. It happens to him in real life as well. Matthau paid out an advance of \$93,000 to a contractor to have his home renovated, but the work was not completed, leaving Matthau out of pocket and in a mess. The matter will be settled in court.

BRULIK

by DOSH



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slater maybe gets into difficulties without the boss (10)
 - 6 Avoid editing a missing poet (4)
 - 10 This drifter isn't crazy (5)
 - 11 The shabby fellow in the field will frighten one of the birds (9)
 - 12 Make declaration without thought to dim solicitor (5,3)
 - 13 A theatre's stage-door has such a lock (5)
 - 15 Account 13 essential for the thespian (7)
 - 17 In tears, moved by drink (7)
 - 19 Start sprouting if not lacking natural light (7)
 - 21 A bothersome dog? (7)
 - 22 Go round or part (5)
 - 24 Absolute monarch at a court occasion (8)
 - 27 Retired man finding an object in routine work (9)
 - 28 An article to enjoy all the same (5)
 - 29 She's English and coming back (4)
 - 30 Its present form is lasting well (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 A thinker to shrink from (4)
 - 2 Not involved—not backing up the fool (9)
 - 3 An ancient wood (5)
 - 4 Catches girls with nothing inside them (7)
 - 5 Spread awful scare about not drinking (7)
 - 7 Some clever new writer of science-fiction (5)
 - 8 Having words—it's an undisciplined Lower House! (10)
 - 9 The man willing to have a go at the alternative (8)
 - 14 Hand one over at one point, being enthusiastic (10)
 - 16 Raising rice, note yield (8)
 - 18 Following one child around at four (8)
 - 20 Coastal area which sets the South-east apart (7)
 - 21 They provide capital cover! (7)
 - 23 Making a scholar study a philosopher (5)
 - 25 A level hundred pounds will go on dope (5)
 - 26 This is considered material (4)

SOLUTIONS

ALTERATION
 C O U N T Y P A
 C O M M U N I S T C O A S T
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 A S S E S S I M P E R I A L
 I S A N O
 M A D R I D S T A R T O U T
 E O I E O
 E B E R L I N G A P P E A R
 A L L R I G H T H O C C E L A
 T O N E W J O R I
 H O S E A A N I M A T I O N
 E P I T H E T O E
 T O R C H B A R B E R

Yesterday's Quick Solution
 ACROSS: 1 Canvaas, 5 Shows, 8 Angus, 9 Loertes, 10 Patinasse, 12 Goa, 13 August, 14 Cannon, 17 Coe, 18 Fortollo, 20 Shallow, 21 Obese, 23 Doyen, 24 Retread.
 DOWN: 1 Cheat, 2 King, 3 Astor, 4 Sylvan, 5 Steps, 6 Octagonal, 7 Sustain, 11 Legionary, 13 Account, 15 Affront, 16 Brewet, 18 Pylon, 19 Oread, 22 Eye.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 5 Cartoon mouse (5)
- 8 Citrus fruit (8)
- 9 Horrify (5)
- 10 Soak (8)
- 11 Stoneworker (5)
- 14 Age (3)
- 16 Abbey (6)
- 17 Hurt (6)
- 18 Newt (3)
- 20 Country (5)
- 24 Cherish (8)
- 25 Foe (5)
- 26 Wisdom (8)
- 27 Profundity (5)

DOWN

- 1 Shatter (5)
- 2 Merge (5)
- 3 Wed (5)
- 4 Healthier (6)
- 6 Stress (8)
- 7 Well thought out (8)
- 12 Hoax (8)
- 13 Scorn (8)
- 14 View (3)
- 15 Appropriate (3)
- 19 Shape (6)
- 21 Man-made waterway (5)
- 22 Sensational (5)
- 23 Famous diarist (5)

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The dates: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 10, 11, 12, 1997.

The price: NIS 975 per person in a double room. Includes round-trip transportation from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, two breakfasts, two dinners, one lunch (Shabbat), participation in all workshops, discussions, lectures, etc., guided tour with the Beduin, use of hotel facilities, etc. Pick-up and drop-off along the route where possible and arranged beforehand.

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הכרזת האג'יה

BUSINESS & FINANCE

BITS & BYTES

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Ampal-American invests \$1m. in Unic View

Ampal-American Israel Corporation, a New York-based company that acquires interests in businesses located in Israel or that are Israel-related, has announced an investment of \$1 million to acquire a 7.25 percent interest in Unic View Ltd., a privately held Israeli company.

Unic View manufactures and markets a liquid-screen display projector for video, large-screen television and computer projection systems and is developing a new projector engine for home use.

Check Point licenses Security-7's technology

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq:CHKPF) has announced that it will integrate Security-7 Ltd.'s technology into its Firewall-1 Internet and intranet security solution.

Check Point's Firewall-1 product is designed to enable secure network connectivity, while Security-7 develops a technology that detects and blocks attempts that can infiltrate and damage a computer network.

Security-7 competed with Finjan for the license.

ESC Medical receives FDA approval

ESC Medical Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: ESCMF) has announced that it has received clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration to market its Topaz 30 surgical CO2 laser system in the US.

The system is used for both general and surgical dermatological applications, including fast-growing skin resurfacing applications. ESC Medical manufactures a host of medical devices that treat such conditions as varicose veins, hair removal and skin cancer.

HP shows its smarts on Internet transactions

Hewlett-Packard Co. (NYSE: HWP), the international computer company based in northern California, has announced a new line of products that will allow businesses and home-computer users to safely conduct transactions or work on confidential business projects over the Internet or via intranets.

The Præsidium line, a smart-card system which is due for release next month, is designed to make Internet commerce and intranet business more secure.

NetManage sells to CommerzBank

NetManage, Inc. (Nasdaq: NETM) has announced that Commerzbank AG of Germany has selected its Chameleon NFS software for its 10,000 PCs.

The size of the deal was not disclosed by the Frankfurt-based bank or the computer firm. NetManage, which has three R&D centers in Israel, develops an integrated set of application, server and development tool software for the Microsoft Windows, Windows 95, Windows NT and Mac OS platforms.

Nice signs \$530,000 Austrian air deal

Nice Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: NICEY) of Tel Aviv has signed a deal to sell \$530,000 worth of its digital voice-logging and archiving systems to the Austrian Air Traffic Control Authority. The system, called the NiceLog Digital Voice-Logging System, records air traffic.

The company has customers in the United States, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Holland, Iceland and Switzerland.

Organics, AltaRex get \$600,000 funding

Israel's Organics (Amex: GNX) and AltaRex Corp., which is based in the Canadian state of Alberta, have announced that they received approval of \$600,000 in funding support from the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation for a joint research and development project.

The project will combine the technical and commercial expertise of the two companies in the development of in vitro immunosays that can monitor the treatment progress of cancer patients from a doctor's office. The companies will share the funding equally.

Meridor: Slash tariffs on Jordanian imports

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel must reduce, and in some cases altogether remove, tariffs on imports from Jordan, whether in a joint agreement or unilaterally, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

Speaking in Jerusalem at the first national symposium on expanding trade with neighboring states, Meridor admitted that too much bureaucracy on the Israeli side is hindering the development of economic ties, particularly in infrastructure projects along the Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile, senior Treasury and Foreign Ministry officials called on Jordan to consider entering negotiations to create a free-trade agreement, which could also include the Palestinian Authority.

Pointing to recent border-crossing tariff reductions from the Israeli side, both for freight and passengers (including the reduction of levies on workers from \$5 to \$2), Meridor said the Jordanians have so far failed to respond in kind, despite requests from Israel.

"There really should be equivalent reductions there, but even if they are not forthcoming, it's still worth our while lowering customs and other duties unilaterally," said Meridor.

A bilateral agreement with Jordan would be favorable, said



Oded Eran: Free-trade talks soon.

(David Rubinger)

Customs and VAT Director Moti Ayalon. However, failing this, a unilateral move would certainly not harm Israel's economic interests.

The minister's words were welcomed by a Jordanian economic official, who suggested the joint technical groups should examine the various possibilities for tariff reductions. "Through these committees we can eliminate whatever unnecessary barriers there are, that

prevent trade and joint ventures between the two countries," said the Jordanian official.

However, the official rejected the calls for immediate talks on a free-trade agreement.

Outgoing Treasury director-general David Brodet said such a step, first with the Jordanians, then the Palestinians, with Lebanon and Syria entering down the line, is a direction that has to be pursued.

"We know how to export in

Japanese join Dankner in Polish venture

By Jerusalem Post Staff

terms of billions to the US, Europe, Far East, Australia and New Zealand," said Brodet. "Yet to the border at Allenby [Bridge], just tens of kilometers away, we can't even move a truck without a problem."

"In terms of the economics you could certainly do it very easily," said Harvard University Middle East economist Robert Lawrence. "It all hinges on the political situation in Jordan."

There is certainly a degree of optimism in government about the commencing of negotiations over a free-trade area with Jordan. "I hope this will happen soon," said Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for economic affairs, Oded Eran.

Turning his attention to the Israeli bureaucracy, Eran said there has to be greater coordination on the part of interested Israeli organizations. "We must speed things up, especially in the Akaba-Eilat area, where things are simply not moving. Look at the [joint Israeli-Jordanian] airport - there are differences of opinion as to which model to adopt."

One solution to the security issues involved in imports and exports in the region would be the creation of joint Middle East transportation companies, suggested Israel Institute of Transportation Planning and Research general manager Gideon Hashimshony.

Japanese trading company Nissho Iwai Corporation is to become a major shareholder alongside the Dankner Group's Matav Cable Systems Media in the private Polish RP Telekom, following a deal estimated to be worth \$26 million over three years, the company announced this week.

Dankner, whose Matav Cable is a regional cable TV operator, is among the leaders of a multinational group of investors which is involved in the privatization of Poland's telephone services.

Matav, founded in 1987 by Dankner Investments, is shared by Dankner with Hapoalim Electronic Communications and Hanania Gibstein, with each holding about 20 percent of the company.

In a notice to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange this week, Dankner reported that an agreement was signed Tuesday between Shamrock Holdings, Nissho Iwai & General Electric, Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs, and Matav.

According to the agreement, each partner will hold 11.8% of shares.

Grain shortage looms in Balkans

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Political upheaval, economic turmoil and the aftermath of war in former Yugoslavia has left southeastern Europe, once rich in grain, struggling to meet its requirements for staple bread.

Serbia, long considered the bread basket of the Balkans, faces a protracted struggle to get its harvests back up to historic levels.

Albania said Tuesday it faced a serious food crisis because of looting of government reserves and the collapse of the trading system during the current unrest.

Officials hope that the special highly paid government police can prevent further looting of grain reserves, estimated at 80,000 tons.

Bulgarians have been queuing for bread. The prosecutor-general is investigating whether charges of negligence would be justified against the ex-farm minister for exporting more than 827,280 tons of grain for 7.141 billion leva (NIS 16 million) from the 1994-1995 harvest.

Romania, once an exporter, may have to import to cover grain shortages in the first half of this year.

Croatia is likely to have to import wheat this year, despite an increase in output, and farmers in Hungary cannot afford fertilizer.

Western experts see imports 'slowing and harvests getting bigger. But exact figures are hard to pinpoint, they said in response to a Reuters survey of the region's grain crisis.

"Unfortunately agricultural production here is in the hands of God and the entire production relies on weather conditions," one Balkan government official said.

Serbia and Montenegro, present-day Yugoslavia, will take at

least seven years to raise output to pre-1991 levels, according to a senior government official. The country faces a shortage after its worst harvest in 25 years and excessive exports last year.

Industry sources say Yugoslavia recently bought up to 100,000 tons from Argentina, France, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

Yugoslavia needs around 500,000 tons of wheat before the new harvest to secure an estimated 2.5 million tons needed to feed its 10 million people and around 500,000 refugees, analysts say.

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NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY STOCK

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bank will be held at its Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, on Tuesday, 1st April 1997 at 10:00 in the forenoon, for the purpose of passing the following Resolutions:

- TO APPROVE an increase in the amount of cover of the Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance Policies of the Bank and the Group by an additional U.S.\$10 million.
- TO APPROVE the granting of an indemnity to the Directors and other Officers of the Bank in connection with the prospectus of the Bank.
- TO APPROVE the payment of a bonus to the Chairman of the Board of Directors in connection with his contribution to the realization of the Bank's surplus holdings in real corporations.

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote on his or her behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Bank.

Tel Aviv, 21st March, 1997

By Order of the Board
Jennifer James, Adv.
Secretary

Details of the insurance policies and their cost, and the full text of the resolutions concerning the purchase of the additional insurance coverage, and the approval of the granting of indemnities to the Directors and other Officers of the Bank and the approval of the payment of the bonus may be examined at the office of the Secretariat of the Bank at the Bank's Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, during normal business hours.

bank leumi בנק לאומי

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for share name, last price, and change.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table listing Mishtanim leading 100 Tase issues with columns for share name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

Table listing various international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

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Table listing various international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

TASE ROUNDUP

Shares closed higher yesterday, led by a rise in small-capitalization shares, traders said.

Mishtanim 245.78 ▲ 1.06%

Maof 253.89 ▲ 1.11%

Key Representative Rates: US Dollar NIS 3.9600 -0.15%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES: DJ Industrials 8917.82 -0.05%

NYSE STOCKS: Declines 14, Advances 138

OTHER MARKET INDEXES: FTSE 100 4298 -0.2%

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US): Pound spot 1.5614 +0.0011

US COMMODITIES: Cocoa (May) 1031 +1

LONDON COMMODITIES: Gold (May) 357.25 -0.06

SPOT MARKET METALS (US): Gold spot 357.25 -0.06

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES: Gold (Apr) 357.25 -0.7

LONDON METAL FIXES: Gold AM fix 357.25 -0.7

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA: Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

LONDON: Allied Demcon 447 -10.5

PARIS: Accor 814 -18

FRANKFURT: Allianz AG 1180 -10

Shares end higher led by small-caps

The benchmark Mishtanim index of the top 100 shares gained 1.06 percent, or 2.58 points, to 245.78 on an all-share turnover of NIS 136 million against NIS 110 million Wednesday.

The Maof 25 blue chip index closed 1.11% higher at 253.89.

The session opened with nice gains and the indices rose by more than 1% led by a sharp rise in small-capitalization shares.

Traders added that foreign investors were active today buying shares.

Africa Israel Investments rose 3.75% to 23,193 agorot.

Britain's blue chip FTSE 100 index suffered its biggest one-day fall in point terms of the year so far.

Germany closed down around 1.75 percent, Germany closed 1.5% off and the Paris bourse had also tumbled well over 1.5% before business ended.

Wall Street Report: Tuesday to consider whether to raise short-term rates, which would be the first increase in nearly two years.

Compaq Computer Corp. rose 3-3/8 to 75-3/8 while Hewlett-Packard gained two points to 57-3/8.

Analysts said the tech stocks were due for a rally after two weeks of heavy selling.

Among the big movers, Philip Morris lost 5-3/4 at 116-1/4 on news that state attorneys general are close to a litigation settlement with Liggett, the tobacco unit of Brooke Group Ltd.

Designer Holdings Ltd. fell 2-7/8, or 27%, to 7-3/4 after the sportswear designer slashed its 1997 sales outlook.

tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873.

Jerusalem Post Business Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

Proposals: Continued from Page 1

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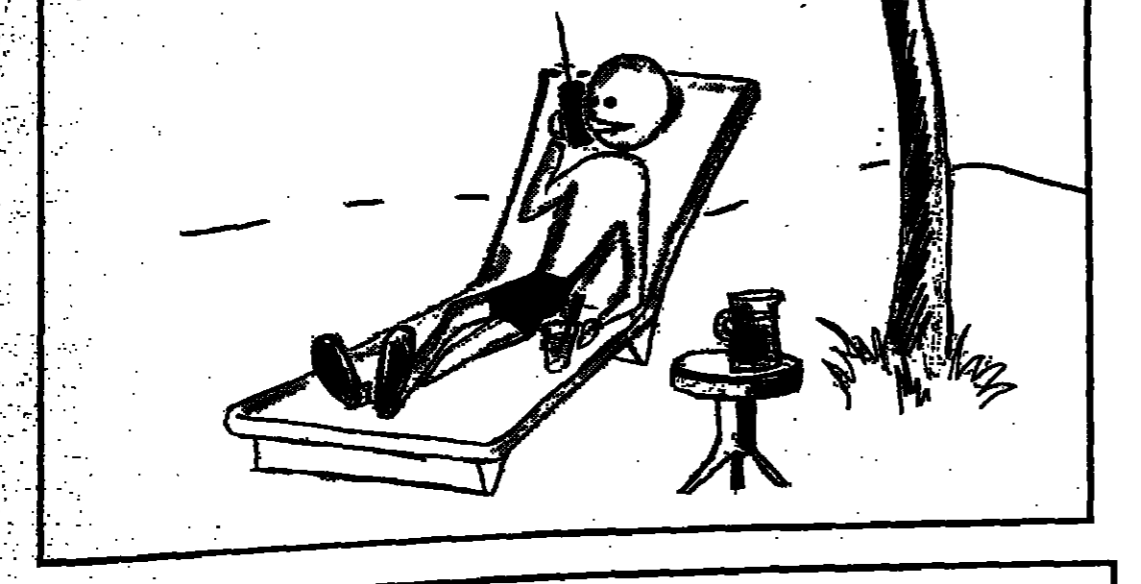
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NEWS

in brief

Jerusalem man dies from gas poisoning

A 79-year-old man was found dead in his home in Jerusalem yesterday, having apparently died from inhaling carbon monoxide emitted by a heater. He is the fourth person to have died from gas inhalation in the capital this week. *Tim*

Two killed in van-car collision

Suleiman Abu Saluk, 23, of Lod, and a 45-year-old Kfar Sava resident died yesterday when the van Saluk was driving swerved into oncoming traffic and hit the Kfar Sava man's car. The car behind it then crashed into both vehicles. A passenger in Saluk's van was seriously injured and two people in the second car were lightly injured in the accident, which occurred near Shoham. *Tim*

Pilot critically injured in crash

Crop duster Uzi Afek, 48, of Beit Hanun, was critically injured yesterday afternoon when the plane he was flying crashed into two electricity poles and then crash-landed. He had been spraying pesticides on the fields at Moshav Eshbol when the accident occurred. He was rushed to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital, where he is being treated for head injuries. *Tim*

Six Hai Vekayam activists arrested

Six Hai Vekayam activists were arrested yesterday afternoon for trying to force their way onto the Temple Mount and pray there. Police stopped them at an entrance to the Mount and took them to the Old City's Kishle police station for questioning. One of those arrested, the son of Hai Vekayam founder Yehuda Etzion, said the group had decided recently to step up efforts to pray on the Temple Mount. *Tim*

Two pirate radio stations shut

Communications Ministry inspectors, accompanied by policemen, yesterday shut down two pirate radio stations: Galei Ashdod and Radio Sky. The Ashdod station was broadcasting to the center of the country, the coastal plain and the South. Radio Sky, which in a previous incarnation was known as Radio Style and shut down, broadcast from a mobile home at Moshav Sheulim. The stations' operators, who have criminal records, were arrested. *Judy Siegel*

PM makes unplanned stop on trip North

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's helicopter made an unscheduled landing at the military section of Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday morning due to engine trouble. Shortly after taking off from Jerusalem, the pilot said the engine did not sound right, so instead of continuing to Tel Hai for an Adar 11 commemoration, he headed to the airport. The helicopter was repaired and Netanyahu continued his trip. *Tim*



Victims remembered

Larry Belkin, whose wife, Gail, and mother-in-law were killed in last year's Dizengoff Center suicide bombing, lights memorial candles at a ceremony at the site yesterday. *(An Oseandyyer/Israel Sun)*

Right vs. left: Betar Jerusalem host Taiba

By ORI LEWIS

It's top against bottom in the National League this weekend, and never were the odds more in favor of the leaders than this time around.

But just to add a little spice to proceedings, the two clubs in question are Betar Jerusalem and Hapoel Taiba. In their two previous meetings, there was much excitement and apprehension as the fans identified with the Israeli right, and those of the Arab sector would shift attention away from the action on the pitch.

Fortunately, in those two previous encounters, the pre-match tension was greatly exaggerated as the police turned out in force to keep friction between the two camps down to a minimum.

The first match in the Toto Cup at Teddy Stadium last August which ended in a goalless draw saw a handful of Taiba supporters hurt by stone-throwing Betar supporters, while in the second match the league fixture hosted by Taiba at Kiryat Eliezer ended without serious incident as the police took greater measures to keep the fans apart. Betar won that match 3-0.

Since then, the Taiba supporters, who have become deeply distressed by the failure of their side to show that they are capable of holding their own in the National League, have had the occasional outburst, but more often these have been against their own team.

Tomorrow's featured match at Teddy Stadium will see the police turn out in full force again (if they are not otherwise preoccupied by matters far less sporting). But the result of the match looks to be a foregone conclusion. With still only 10 points to their name (com-

ing from three wins and one draw) Taiba will need nothing short of a miracle to stop Betar's inexorable march towards the championship.

Add to that Taiba's depleted lineup—they have no three players suspended and one injured—as opposed to Betar, who are at full strength and the script appears to be written for yet another Betar win and another Taiba defeat.

A second intriguing match sees Hapoel Petah Tikva, who have dropped to third place in the standings, take on Maccabi Tel Aviv at the National Stadium.

Petah Tikva did not play last weekend because their ground was waterlogged and in midweek they lost 2-0 in extra time to second-placed Hapoel Beersheba in the State Cup. Maccabi have regained their sparkling form from last season, so this should be a match with a full commitment from both sides.

With daylight saving time coming into effect today, the main kickoff time has been put back by one hour, with most matches kicking off at 16:00.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 16:00 unless stated): Bnei Yehuda vs. Zafirim Holon, Hatikva Quarter; Betar Jerusalem vs. Hapoel Taiba, Teddy Stadium 17:45 (televised); Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Hapoel Petah Tikva, National Stadium.

Also, Maccabi Herzliya vs. Maccabi Haifa, Herzliya; Hapoel Beersheba vs. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Beersheba; Hapoel Haifa vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Kiryat Eliezer 15:30; Maccabi Petah Tikva vs. Hapoel Jerusalem, Petah Tikva; Hapoel Beit She'an vs. Ironi Rishon LeZion, Beit She'an, today 15:00.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | Gf | Ga | Dif | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Betar Jerusalem | 22 | 17 | 4 | 1 | 47 | 12 | 35 | 55 |
| Hapoel Beersheba | 22 | 15 | 2 | 5 | 35 | 18 | 17 | 47 |
| Hapoel Petah Tikva | 21 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 38 | 20 | 18 | 45 |
| Maccabi Tel Aviv | 22 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 40 | 22 | 18 | 41 |
| Maccabi Petah Tikva | 22 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 19 | 9 | 38 |
| Hapoel Kfar Sava | 22 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 23 | - | 30 |
| Bnei Yehuda | 22 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 22 | 26 | -4 | 30 |
| Hapoel Haifa | 22 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 25 | 24 | -1 | 29 |
| Hapoel Jerusalem | 22 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 24 | 31 | -7 | 28 |
| Maccabi Haifa | 22 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 24 | 25 | -1 | 26 |
| Hapoel Beit She'an | 22 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 22 | -3 | 26 |
| Maccabi Herzliya | 21 | 7 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 19 | -7 | 23 |
| Ironi Rishon LeZion | 22 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 21 | 36 | -15 | 21 |
| Zafirim Holon | 22 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 14 | 31 | -17 | 18 |
| Hapoel Tel Aviv | 22 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 22 | -11 | 17 |
| Hapoel Taiba | 22 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 13 | 46 | -33 | 10 |

Deri aide rumored fired

By SARAH HONG

Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef has sacked MK Aryeh Deri's aide, Yehuda Avidan, from all his positions in the party, Shas sources reported yesterday. Other party sources are denying it.

Deri refused to comment. According to the reports, he strove to keep Avidan but was overruled by Yosef. There are rumors in Shas that Avidan committed a grave transgression in his personal life, which in Yosef's eyes made him unfit to serve the party.

Some Shas sources said that Yosef had for weeks been incensed at Avidan, because of his statements to the press on the eve of the Hebron agreement vote in the cabinet, in which he warned that Shas might vote

against the deal. Avidan at the time said that Yosef had ordered a vote against the Hebron deal, while Yosef had not, the sources said.

Avidan's statements are seen in the party as a major reason the media was prompted to investigate the circumstances surrounding the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general.

Yosef is also reported unhappy with Avidan's handling of reports that the police were questioning Yosef during the investigation of the Bar-On Affair.

However, most of those in Shas who said Avidan was dismissed say the reason relates to his personal conduct, and has nothing to do with his public statements.

Police investigate tape praising Jewish terrorists

Hundreds of copies of a tape with songs praising Jewish terrorists, including Baruch Goldstein, Yigal Amir, Ami Popper, and Yoram Skolnik, and deriding the

late Yitzhak Rabin, Leah Rabin, and Labor leader Shimon Peres, are circulating in the territories, police said.

Baruch Goldstein, who murdered 29 Arabs in the Machpela Cave in Hebron in February 1994, appears on the cover of the tape.

The cover says the tape was produced to mark the third anniversary of the massacre, which occurred on Purim. It also bills the tape as "the Jewish answer to the Cameri Quintet."

The 40-minute Hebrew tape contains such references as "Goldstein, the great doctor who gave everyone *kadurim*"—which in Hebrew can be translated as either "pills" or "bullets"—and parodies of several well-known Hebrew songs. At the end of the tape there is a thank-you "to Bibi and Tzahi, because of whom Yitzhak is not here." The references are to Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, and Yitzhak Rabin.

The voices of the performers were altered to disguise their identities, and neither the producers nor the distributors are named.

Sources on the Right acknowledged that the tape had been widely distributed and that demand for the recording was outstripping supply.

Police said they are examining the tape and trying to determine who produced it.

MKs Avi Yehzekel (Labor) and Anat Maor (Meretz) filed complaints with the police and the attorney-general. Maor has also submitted an urgent motion for the agenda on the issue.

Yuval Rabin, the son of Yitzhak Rabin, demanded that Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani make a personal effort to locate the producers and distributors of the tape.

VIOLENCE

Continued from Page 1

Egyptian capital separately just as Syrian and Lebanese ministers were leaving, after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Officials said Arafat would have talks with Mubarak's foreign policy adviser, Osama Baz.

Gold told reporters: "I'm here to convey a message from Israel to Egypt and we have a very new proposal about the peace process to discuss." He was apparently referring to Netanyahu's offer to complete the final status talks within six months, nearly two years earlier than planned.

The Palestinians have dismissed the plan as a trick. Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said their priority was to stop the Israeli building settlements such as the new one at Har Homa.

"Why is it that the Israelis try to sell us things that have been sold several times before?" he said of the proposal. "What is important is that they implement what has been agreed upon and immediately stop the process of settlements and building in Jerusalem, so that

we can proceed forward to the final status negotiations, because we can't begin with his [Netanyahu's] bulldozers and tanks."

Shaath said the Palestinians would knock on every door in their diplomatic campaign, but would not use violence to protest construction that began at Har Homa this week.

"We are going to use all the political rules available to us. We will do our best to keep utilizing the political rules when there is an opportunity— from the Islamic summit in Pakistan to the Jerusalem summit in Rabat to a proposed Arab summit, again and again to the Security Council," he said.

Asked about yesterday's clashes in Bethlehem, he said: "We are using peaceful protest. The Israeli army shoots at peaceful demonstrators."

After Mubarak's talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Israel could not expect to go on tricking the Arabs with fine-sounding promises.

SHABBAT

Continued from Page 1

nostalgia anymore," he said. "Now we are going for broke. The crisis has heightened."

The intermarriage rate among American Jews is higher than 50 percent, Buchwald noted.

"For many Jews to walk into a synagogue in the 20th century is a heroic act," he said, adding that synagogues have to be transformed so that the unaffiliated are "welcomed and not fund-raised."

Synagogues from New Orleans to Anchorage, Alaska, are participating in the program, which aims to pack Friday night services on April 4. More than 100 Orthodox, 125 Conservative, and 225 Reform and Reconstructionist synagogues have signed up.

Jews who take the marketing bait can call a toll-free number and will be directed to the closest synagogue "to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate, and celebrate."

SATELLITE

Continued from Page 1

described as a micro-satellite, being just 48 cm. all round and weighing less than 50 kg., but it contains a big payload of technological hardware.

The satellite, covered with solar energy panels to provide the power to generate its operations, includes an ozone detector, as well as equipment for testing components in space and for investigating clouds.

Other components include an instrument designed to help linkups between amateur radio operators throughout the world, a new type of X-ray detector, a horizon finder and a micro-mini computer with minimal power

requirements. The computer has been specially designed to rejuvenate itself over a period of three years or longer by automatically replacing parts burned out by the constant bombardment of cosmic rays.

Astrophysicist Prof. Giora Shaviv, head of the Technion's Asher Space Research Institute and the man behind the TechSat project, revealed that an agreement had been reached with the Russians to launch the satellite this summer, at a cost of \$400,000.

"Our aim is to demonstrate that our philosophy of technology works, which if it does it will be a breakthrough, and also to carry out several very interesting and even unique experiments," Shaviv added.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, the seven of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the jack of clubs. In last night's weekly Patis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 347529 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 447796 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets numbered 668779, 834587, 274105, 191663, 229773, 625301, 584795 and 414660 all won NIS 5,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 31218, 15724, 77614, 38826, 74255, 64769, 57749, 93903, 92550, 69610, 56240, 58135, 92154, 74037, 71596, 22291, 17957, 86710 and 95237 all won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 407, 297, 029 and 916 all won NIS 100; in 35, 64, 05 and 11, NIS 30; in 65 and 26, NIS 20; and in 5 and 4, NIS 10.

Adar Bet 5757

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Three months ago a brilliant young Talmud scholar was killed in an automobile accident, leaving a penniless widow and small children. His brother-in-law, Rabbi Shmuel, has pledged to provide support and assistance for the family and the great and noble Rabbi Halberstam has also assured us in this important mitzva:

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Rabbi Mordechai Alon

Donations can be sent to Rabbi Shmuel Litner, 26 Rehov Ezrat Tora, Jerusalem or deposited in Bank Hamizrachi, Branch 17, Acct. no. 382988, Jerusalem. For further details call 02-537-0913.

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Thursday April 3
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitalier Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
NIS 175
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday April 15
RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN
Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the "Mona Lisa," in one of the world's most successful digs.
NIS 180 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Yisrael Shalev

Thursday April 24
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and their study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.
NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Danny Weiss

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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מכלה מן האוכל

Israeli cricketers blaze trail to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia, which bans all relations with Israel, will allow a group of Israeli sportsmen to visit the country for the first time to play in a cricket tournament.

Imran Ja'afar, president of the Malaysian Cricket Association, said in a statement yesterday that he has the government's permission for the Israeli team to participate in the 22-nation tournament beginning Monday.

It was not clear why the government reversed its policy, but Imran said he explained to authorities that the sport's governing body had allowed Malaysia to stage the tournament on the condition that Israel would be permitted to play.

The team, due to arrive today, will be given extra security, Imran's statement said, but gave no details.

The 21-day International Cricket Council Trophy will be played at 10 sites in and around Kuala Lumpur. The final is scheduled April 12.

Only non-Test playing nations will participate, and the top three teams will qualify for the prestigious World Cup in England in 1999 while the top four Commonwealth nations will gain a place in the 1998 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Malaysia.

Malaysia, whose official religion is Islam, officially bans all contacts with Israel, including trade and visits by the people of each side.

But Malaysia has recently taken a more relaxed view. Early last year, Tuanku Abdullah Abdul Rahman, the brother of Malaysia's king, became the first Malaysian to visit Israel for business talks.

Since then, a few more business visits by Malaysians have been allowed.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said two months ago that Malaysia was still not ready for diplomatic ties with Israel.

Lindros's 4 goals lift Flyers past Leafs

TORONTO (AP) — Eric Lindros scored four goals and added two assists Wednesday night to power the Philadelphia Flyers to a 6-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs. Two of Lindros' goals came within a 72-second span in the third period.

Lindros's linemate, Mikael Renberg, had the other two Philadelphia goals.

With the victory, the Flyers moved back into first place in the Atlantic Division.

Stars 7, Coyotes 2
Joe Nieuwendyk scored twice and Mike Modano matched his career high with four assists as Dallas remained unbeaten at home in its last eight games.

Greg Adams, Darryl Sydor and Neal Broten all had a goal and an assist to help the Stars avenge their last home loss, a 5-0 defeat to the Coyotes on February 12.

Red Wings 4, Bruins 1
Igor Larionov had two goals and an assist and Larry Murphy marked his Detroit debut with a goal as the Red Wings won at home.

Darren McCarty added a pair of assists for the Red Wings.

Jean-Yves Roy scored his sixth goal for Boston, which finished 1-9-2 against Central Division foes this season.

Devils 2, Capitals 2 (OT)
Washington extended its home

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Lists teams like Philadelphia, New Jersey, Florida, etc.

Table with columns: Western Conference, Central Division, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Lists teams like Dallas, Detroit, Phoenix, etc.

Table with columns: Western Conference, Pacific Division, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Lists teams like Colorado, Edmonton, Anaheim, etc.

NHL — Wednesday's results: N.Y. Islanders 7, Florida 4; Montreal 5, N.Y. Rangers 4; New Jersey 2, Washington 2; Philadelphia 6, Toronto 3; Detroit 4, Boston 1; Dallas 7, Phoenix 2; Calgary 4, San Jose 2; Edmonton 3, Tampa Bay 1; Anaheim 6, Los Angeles 2.

Hap Jerusalem, Maccabi TA advance to State Cup final

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Good things are worth waiting for, but Hapoel Jerusalem fans had to wait far too long for their team to awaken from its offensive slumber and polish off Maccabi Ramat Gan, 65-60 in last night's State Cup semifinal.

In the other semifinal played at Yad Eliyahu, Maccabi Tel Aviv routed Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin, as expected, 97-75.

Hapoel Jerusalem and Maccabi Tel Aviv will clash in the State Cup final to be played on April 10.

Jerusalem's offense was stalled somewhere on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway during the first half, continuing its two-

week slump left over from losses to Iralis in Greece and at home earlier this week to Hapoel Galil Elyon. Suffice to say that team captain and offensive stalwart Adi Gordon had just three points at halftime.

More importantly, Jerusalem missed the presence of Moti Daniel, who left midway through the first half with his third foul. Without him, coach Gadi Kedari's club seemed content to hoist up three-pointers which did not fall, while Maccabi Ramat Gan played superb defense and worked for an open shot. The result was a well-deserved 30-25 lead for coach Effi Birnbaum's club at halftime.

Ramat Gan's Tony Massop scored the first basket of the second half and

Maccabi Ramat Gan led by seven, but then Jerusalem started the long climb back. Billy Thompson scoring to make it 35-34 Jerusalem with just over 15 minutes to play.

Ramat Gan still rallied back for a 40-37 advantage before Kedari decided to switch his club to a zone defense that worked wonders. Jerusalem went on a 20-2 run, keyed by three-pointers by Daniel and Doron Shefa.

Gordon also rediscovered his shooting eye, and when Shefa hit another three-pointer, Jerusalem had blasted its way to a 57-42 advantage that knocked the fight out of Ramat Gan.

Lacking any real go-to guy on offense,

Ramat Gan tried desperately to get back into the game. Oren Aharoni and Roy Fisher led the charge, but it was too little, too late, giving defending State Cup champion Hapoel Jerusalem its rightful place in the final, where they will once more be matched up against Maccabi Tel Aviv, whom they beat for the title last year on Gordon's buzzer-beating shot.

First, however, the two clubs meet this week in a league game which could provide a good preview of the final.

Daniel and Gordon tied for high scorers for Jerusalem with 16, while Fisher had 17, and Ramat Gan's only three foul shot attempts of the night, yet another reason for their defeat.

Malone passes Jerry West as 10th all-time scorer

BOSTON (AP) — Karl Malone became the 10th leading scorer in NBA history Wednesday night, scoring 32 points as the Utah Jazz cruised to a 113-100 win over the Boston Celtics.

Malone has 25,200 points, eight more than Jerry West and 413 fewer than Alex English.

The Jazz, who finished their seven-game Eastern road trip with a 6-1 record, have rolled to the NBA's second best record and best in the Western Conference. Much of the credit goes to Malone, who has averaged 34.7 points in the last four games.

The Celtics, with 22 losses in their last 24 games, have the NBA's second-worst record and showed why in two stretches — a 13-0 Utah run late in the second period and a 12-0 surge to start the third.

Knicks 111, 76ers 100
Patrick Ewing had 30 points and 13 rebounds for his 38th double-double this season as New York won on the road.

New York has won nine of 11, but its two losses came against sub-.500 teams, the Dallas Mavericks and the New Jersey Nets.

And the Knicks had trouble putting away a Sixers team that is now 2-8 in March and was officially eliminated from the playoffs after Tuesday's loss.

Larry Johnson added 21 for New York, and John Starks, starting for the flu-stricken Allan Houston, had 21. Charles Oakley had 12 rebounds.

Derrick Coleman had 25 points for the Sixers and Allen Iverson scored 22 despite shooting 3-for-13 in the second half.

Hornets 90, Cavaliers 72
Glen Rice had 22 points and Anthony Mason added 16 points and 14 rebounds as Charlotte avenged its worst loss of the season with a home win.

Vlade Divac had 16 points, seven assists, six rebounds and five blocks for the Hornets, who lost 106-73 to the Cavaliers in Cleveland on January 25 in the most lopsided game of the season for both teams.

This time, the Hornets took the lead for good less than 90 seconds into the contest and went on to their eighth victory in 10 games.

Danny Ferry and Bobby Phillips had 13 points each for the Cavaliers, who lost for the fourth time in six games and were held to the lowest point total by a Charlotte opponent this season.

Raptors 99, Pistons 97
Marcus Camby scored 13 of his



USING HIS HEAD — Hornets guard Ricky Pierce gets hit in the head by a pass from Cavaliers guard Bobby Phillips during 3rd-quarter action on Wednesday. Charlotte won 90-72.

28 points in the fourth quarter to lead visiting Toronto to an upset win.

It was the 19th loss for the Pistons and only their fourth against a sub-.500 team. In fact, the Raptors (26-43) have the worst record of all the teams that have beaten Detroit this season.

Camby added a career-high 14 rebounds, and Toronto also got 18 points from Doug Christie and 15 from Walt Williams. Otis Thorpe led the Pistons with 21 points.

Hawks 107, Pacers 95
Dikembe Mutombo, playing for the first time since the birth of his daughter, had 18 points and 18 rebounds to lead Atlanta to a home victory.

Mutombo's 35th double-double of the season helped move the Hawks within 2 1/2 games of Detroit for the fourth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Steve Smith finished with 23 points and nine assists for Atlanta, which improved to 29-4 at home. Christian Laettner added 18 points, Eldridge Recasner had 14 and Tyrone Corbin 11.

Reggie Miller scored 18 points for the Pacers and had his string of 11 straight 20-point-plus games halted.

Heat 93, Warriors 91 (OT)
P.J. Brown had three dunks in overtime and host Miami overcame a 15-point third-quarter

deficit.

Jamal Mashburn paced Miami with 29 points, including six in the final minute of regulation, and Brown had 19.

Latrell Sprewell had 27 for Golden State. Mark Price added 24 and Joe Smith 18.

The win clinched a playoff spot for Miami, marking the first time the ninth-year franchise has accomplished that goal in two consecutive years.

Timberwolves 95, Grizzlies 72
Host Minnesota ran off 20 unanswered points in the second quarter and led by as many as 29 down the stretch as they sent Vancouver to its 15th straight loss.

Minnesota had its largest victory

margin of the season and matched its best defensive first half of the season by holding the Grizzlies to 33 points in the first two quarters.

James Robinson, who scored eight points and hit two of his four 3-pointers during the second-quarter run, finished with 18 points. Sam Mitchell added 17 points off the bench, and Tom Gugliotta and Dean Garrett each had 15. Garrett recorded his 12th double-double of the season, grabbing 11 rebounds.

Clippers 108, Kings 98
Malik Sealy scored 16 of his 27 points in the final 7:41 as the Clippers strengthened their hold on a playoff spot with a home victory that extended Sacramento's losing streak to seven games.

The Clippers, clinging to the seventh spot in the Western Conference, hold a two-game lead over Sacramento and a 2 1/2-game margin over Phoenix.

Mitch Richmond led the Kings with 29 points despite missing his first seven shots of the second half.

The Kings' losing skid is their longest since an 11-game slide in February of last season. They recovered in time from that one to earn their first playoff berth since 1986.

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Miami, New York, Orlando, etc.

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Central Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, etc.

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Pacific Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Utah, Houston, Minnesota, etc.

Table with columns: Western Conference, Midwest Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Utah, Houston, Minnesota, etc.

Table with columns: Western Conference, Northwest Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Portland, L.A. Clippers, Sacramento, etc.

Wednesday's results: Utah 113, Boston 100; New York 111, Philadelphia 100; Charlotte 90, Cleveland 72; Toronto 99, Detroit 97; Minnesota 95, Vancouver 72; Atlanta 107, Indiana 95; Miami 93, Golden State 91 (OT); L.A. Clippers 108, Sacramento 98.

NCAA preview: Zwickler key to middle for Tar Heels

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Serge Zwickler blushed when he was told Dean Smith characterized his improvement at North Carolina as remarkable.

"That's quite a compliment," Zwickler said this week as he prepared for tonight's NCAA tournament game against California.

There may not be a more improved player in the nation over the last three seasons as the 7-foot-3, 273-pound senior, who has gone from a backup center with not much of a game to an important part of the Tar Heels' in-season run.

Zwickler is now a likely first-round draft pick. When he was being recruited, Smith saw something in him he looks for in all centers — good hands.

"Bob Knight once called me about a guy he had on his team and said, 'Have you ever tried to teach a guy to catch the ball?' That's why we recruit good hands," Smith said.

"I've always had confidence in myself that I would play," said Zwickler, a native of The Netherlands. "I knew that when I came here I wouldn't play right away because I had some great big men in front of me. I didn't expect to play. I just wanted to learn, get some experience, hit the weight room and I knew that if I would just wait my time, I would play."

"But Rasheed Wallace came along and that kind of slowed me down."

When Smith signed Wallace several years ago, it appeared Zwickler was destined to be a career backup. But Wallace was injured in the 1995 Atlantic Coast Conference title game, forcing Zwickler into the lineup during the NCAA tournament.

He ended up scoring 19 points in a first-round game against Murray State and the Tar Heels made it to the Final Four.

Then Wallace left for the NBA after his sophomore season. That meant Zwickler would be the man in the middle.

After a solid year last season, Zwickler made third team all-ACC in 1997 and has averaged 13.0 points and 8.0 rebounds during North Carolina's 14-game winning streak heading into the East Regional semifinals against the Golden Bears.

"We know that Zwickler has been scoring, and he's a hard guy to keep off the boards and a hard guy to defend," said California coach Ben Braun, whose team also has some pretty good size up front. "You talk about getting a hand up on shooters but it's hard to get a hand up that high. He's up there, it's tough."

Today's other East semifinal pits Texas against Louisville.

Providence-Texas/Chattanooga
Providence coach Pete Gillen likes to be the underdog, so even though his Friars are favored against entering a final 16 matchup against Tennessee-Chattanooga,

he won't admit it.

He said today's Southeast Regional semifinal is between "two underdogs," and called the 14th seeding for the Mocs (24-10) "probably the greatest miscarriage of justice."

"I don't know what they should be, I'm not going to attempt to say because I don't know," Gillen said prior to his team's last practice before heading to Birmingham, Alabama. "But they are much better than a 14 seed. I know that."

Gillen is leery of the burgeoning Providence bandwagon filled with fans who three weeks ago had written off the Friars as an NIT team when they ended the

regular season with three straight losses.

He frets that his talented-but-unpredictable team will get overconfident against Chattanooga and look ahead to a possible game against top-ranked Kansas for Providence's first trip to the Final

Four since 1987, when Rick Pitino was coach.

"Our guys make coffee nervous," Gillen said. "They're wonderful kids. I love them, but they are a challenge to coach."

Gillen, who took Xavier to seven NCAAAs in nine seasons before moving to Providence three years ago, said he has warned his team that they can take

NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT REGIONAL SEMIFINALS. Table listing regional semifinals for East, Southeast, Midwest, and West divisions with team names and scores.

Sampras, Graf nab top honors

MIAMI BEACH (AP) — Pete Sampras took home the Player of the Year Award for the fourth consecutive year and Steffi Graf took the women's trophy at the first joint ATP Tour and Coral WTA Tour awards ceremonies.

The two tours combined their award ceremonies this year, honoring outstanding achievement in professional tennis for 1996. Graf was also named the Most Exciting Player.

Martina Navratilova received the David Gray Special Service Award for her contributions to the sport.

"Martina Hingis and Britain's Tim Henman received the most improved players' awards."

American Jennifer Capriati and Frenchman Stephane Simon won the Comeback Player of the Year, and Jimmy Connors took home the men's Senior Player of the Year award.

Dominik Hrbaty was named the ATP Tour's Player to Watch in 1997.

Among the other award winners were Australia's "Woodies," Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, as the Doubles Team of the Year; and Alex Corretja of Spain as the winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award.



Hussein slams troops for not shooting killer

AMMAN (Reuters) - King Hussein has told his army that the Jordanian soldier who gunned down seven Israeli schoolgirls last week should have been shot dead on the spot.

In a message sent to the armed forces before his departure for the United States today, the king also rebuked the soldier's superior officers for not preventing his rampage.

"The atrocious incident... is one of the ugliest that we have lived (through)," the king said in a letter released yesterday.

"It is a mark of shame on all who were directly responsible for the perpetrator, and all who saw him in his act and did not kill him immediately," he said.

"If there is any good to be derived from his survival, then it may come from the inquiry that will uncover the causes that pushed him to render this distinguished service to all the enemies of the Jordanian armed forces," the king added.

King Hussein's letter was the latest expression of shame for last week's shooting, but his remorse has not been shared by all Jordanians.

Riot police had to set up a roadblock on Monday to prevent dozens of sympathizers of the soldier, Ahmed Daqamsa, from converging on his village in northern Jordan to pay respects to his family.

They said Daqamsa had been spurred on by a "burning rage" with Israel and said they were campaigning for a fair trial.

Villagers told reporters Daqamsa had become a local hero.

Many Jordanians are disillusioned that a treaty with Israel signed in 1994 has failed to bring a promised "peace dividend" in terms of economic benefits. Plans to build on Har Homa and a smaller withdrawal from the West Bank than Palestinians hoped for have increased hostility.

Hussein warned the army to be vigilant to prevent "any treacherous or hateful agent from infiltrating our ranks to strike with our arms."

"We do not betray people with whom we have made peace," said the king, who last week visited Israel to offer condolences to the families of the seven victims.

Ben-Porat backs use of polygraph for vetting senior civil servants

By BATSHEVA TSUR

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday came out in favor of the use of polygraph testing for senior civil servants who deal with classified material.

The polygraph examinations conducted by the General Security Service are reliable and essential and do not affect basic civil rights, Ben-Porat said in a report presented yesterday at a special meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee.

"If there is a need to take a polygraph, then everyone concerned has to be tested," she said.

This was seen as criticism of the view of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who has consistently opposed polygraph tests and who refused to take one before his appointment. Rubinstein refused to comment on the report.

On Tuesday the High Court of Justice is to hear a petition on the subject. The use of polygraphs also is being discussed by a public committee that is expected to present its findings shortly.

"There should be no discrimination between different persons on

The 'truth' about the lie detector

By TOM GROSS

Former American cop Doug Williams believes lie detectors are "an insidious Orwellian instrument of torture."

"Governments are using a machine that is unreliable and people are being hurt every day," he says. "If you flunk the test you may be fired, your reputation will be ruined, and you may face criminal charges."

Williams claims to have taught over 10,000 people to "sting" the polygraph since he quit the Oklahoma City police in 1979. "My clients come from all over the world," he says in an E-mail interview. "At least a dozen over the past year have been from Israel."

During a six-year stint as a police polygrapher, Williams says he figured out simple methods to beat the lie detector. "I learned how to control every tracing on the chart. After that it was a matter of teaching people when to react and when to control a reaction."

"A reaction that indicates deception is an increase in blood pressure, an erratic breathing pattern, and an increase in sweat activity on your hand. If you have a reaction like this you will be called a liar. There is often no appeal from this decision, even though in many tribunals no other evidence need be offered."

"I maintain that any number of innocent stimuli - fear, rage, embarrassment, nervousness - can and do cause this exact same reaction, and many honest people are branded as liars."

Ben-Porat said yesterday. "[The examination] does not affect any civil liberties. If we felt this was so, we would appeal to the legislature to comment. We are not doing so."

Senior civil servants who handle classified material have a responsibility towards the state and it has to be ensured that they are thoroughly vetted, she said.

"The right of the public in this case has priority over the right of the individual," she said.

Ben-Porat cautioned that the polygraph cannot be considered a scientific tool that stands by itself, saying, "It is not an infallible lie-detector." She stressed that it must be operated properly and its results assessed by experienced personnel.

"I want to stress that this is just one of the tools used. There is no foundation to believing that it is scientific," she said.

But, she noted, it is an important aid with a high degree of reliability. "I can't say that when I was a judge I didn't make mistakes. Sometimes someone looked so calm, but perhaps his heart was pounding. That the polygraph can

tell us, not the judge."

The report, which examined thousands of cases, took two years to collate. It reveals the test has a high degree of accuracy, said committee chairman MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), to whom Ben-Porat presented it.

One example of reliability could be seen by the fact that 95% of those proven to be lying by the polygraph later admitted that they were not telling the truth, the report noted.

Ben-Porat said that polygraph tests were used by the GSS, the police, the Mossad, the IDF, and private companies.

WEATHER

Colin 9-18
Haifa 9-24
Tiberias 9-25
Afula 9-24
Semaria 9-20
Tel Aviv 11-23
Jerusalem 9-21
Beer Sheva 10-25
Dead Sea 16-25
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| Chicago | 08 | 14 | clear |
| Copenhagen | 08 | 14 | rain |
| Frankfurt | 08 | 14 | rain |
| Geneva | 08 | 14 | rain |
| Hong Kong | 19 | 29 | clear |
| Jakarta | 24 | 32 | clear |
| London | 06 | 12 | clear |
| Los Angeles | 06 | 12 | clear |
| Moscow | 07 | 13 | clear |
| Montreal | 07 | 13 | clear |
| New York | 08 | 14 | cloudy |
| Paris | 08 | 14 | cloudy |
| Rome | 08 | 14 | cloudy |
| Stockholm | 08 | 14 | cloudy |
| Tokyo | 08 | 14 | cloudy |
| Vienna | 08 | 14 | cloudy |
| Zurich | 08 | 14 | cloudy |



Back in action
President Ezer Weizman waves good-bye yesterday as he leaves Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section, where he underwent hip surgery last week. (Brim Hender)

New Jordanian PM expected to improve ties with Israel

AMMAN (AP) - King Hussein's selection of Abdul-Salam Majali as prime minister is aimed at improving ties with Israel and speeding up economic reforms.

Majali, 71, a tough retired army general and a close confidant of the king, negotiated and signed Jordan's peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

As prime minister from May 1993 to January 1995, he cobbled together overwhelming parliamentary endorsement for the treaty despite legislators' hesitation over dealing with a long-time enemy.

Today, Majali faces a fence-mending chore with Israel. Relations between the two nations have soured because of tension between the Palestinians and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Jordan also has strongly criticized the government's decision to go ahead with building at Har Homa.

Labib Kamhawi, a political science professor at Jordan University, said yesterday that Majali will take a softer line with Israel than his predecessor, Abdul-Karim Kabariti.

"There will be a softened policy toward Israel and Arab neighbors because Majali is not as confrontational as the former prime minister," Kamhawi said.

Kabariti, 47, was sacked in an unexpected cabinet shakeup Wednesday, just two days before King Hussein's trip to the United States for talks on the peace process. Kabariti took office in February 1996.

King Hussein, in his letter of dismissal, told Kabariti he had not gone far enough with administra-

uve reforms. In an unusual public criticism of a premier, Hussein also accused Kabariti of catering only to "your image in the media." Kabariti had pushed through unpopular economic reforms, such as eliminating state subsidies on wheat and fodder, which set off an outbreak of violent protests last August in poor areas in southern Jordan.

As he improved ties with Gulf Arab states, he also damaged relations with Iraq. Jordan's one-time ally and largest trading partner, turning the business community against him.

Crown Prince Hassan, the king's brother and Jordan's economic strategist, had publicly rebuked Kabariti's stance on Iraq as "noxious" to Jordan's economy, which is strained by \$6.3 billion in foreign debt.

The Jordanian daily *Ad-Dustour* said yesterday that Kabariti's ouster also may have stemmed from his mishandling of the crisis that arose over the killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim last week.

Government officials said Kabariti arrived late at the slaying scene and then bitterly attacked Netanyahu on the phone for blaming the shooting on a harsh letter sent by King Hussein to

Netanyahu.

In appointing Majali, Hussein urged swift administrative and economic reforms and asked him to oversee "free and honest" parliamentary elections.

The new 24-member cabinet is dominated by liberal politicians and technocrats, including five holdovers from the previous government. There is one woman in the cabinet.

Majali, a physician, has held several ministerial portfolios in previous governments, including health and education. From a prominent family from the southern city of Kerak, he also served as personal adviser to the king in 1989.

Leah Rabin raps Right in book

By URIEL HELLMAN

Leah Rabin delivers harsh criticism against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman, and the right-wing establishment for fomenting the political climate that led to her husband's assassination, in her new book *Rabin: Our Life, His Legacy*, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons and due out April 1.

In a combination of journal entries, private letters, and personal narrative, Rabin recalls her life with her husband and, while lamenting his death, wonders whether his legacy was in vain.

In an excerpt published in *Yediot Aharonot*, Rabin writes, "Yitzhak, my dearest, they took you from me, from us... The business left unfinished by his death cries out for his

wisdom and perspective... his clear head, his firm hand, and his pure heart."

In her harsh judgment of Netanyahu, Rabin blames him for presiding over rallies before the assassination at which Yitzhak Rabin was called a traitor and depicted on posters as a Nazi.

Unforgiving toward Weizman, Rabin comes down on him for his activities against her husband's bid for the premiership in April 1974. Weizman, then a Likud MK, leaked a story to the press about her husband allegedly having had a nervous breakdown in the days before the Six Day War.

The book also includes a tirade against "the rabbis, not teachers, at Bar-Ilan University, who provided the inspiration for the behavior that led to the murder."

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